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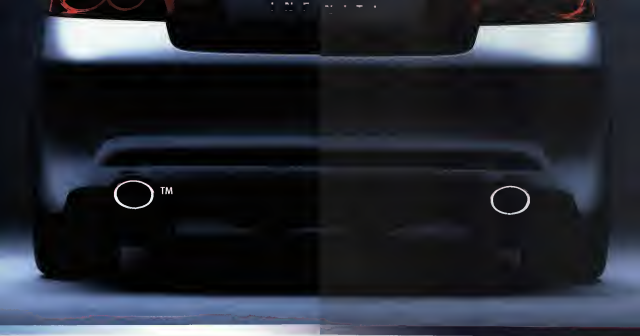
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MARCH 2

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'Students email essays to parents for editing or rewriting. Call it fraud lite.'



THE SEXTUPLET DEBATE

I AGREE that B.C.'s decision to take temporary custody of three of the surviving babies born prematurely to Johanna's Wierman was a medical issue and the children's welfare. ("The sextuplets whose babies are they?" *Carex*, Feb. 18.) I remain concerned, however, that if left unchecked, this abuse of judicial power could lead to further violations of the religious beliefs of Canadians that are supported to be protected by law. This kind of excessive decision making is an affront to the right to any freedom-loving people.

To Frigiditas, Regina

YOU DON'T NEED to ask me who the four remaining babies belong to or belong to their parents. I may disagree with disavowment to blood transfusions and the courts may overrule them on medical grounds, but they are preventing their faith as they see fit. Being a Johanna's Wierman does not make you a merit parent.

Margaret A. Kennedy, Galtville, Ont.

I DOUBT that B.C. would have bypassed a court hearing to give transfusions to the babies if the issue was not urgent. By the time the government got through the legal red tape and court proceedings, the babies might have been dead. These children have no religion yet, unlike the examples you included of Sarah Ishtar, who was 34 when she was diagnosed with cancer, or Bethany Hughes who was 16. Sarah and Bethany had the ability to make their own decision.

Elisabeth Allen, Brantford, Ont.

LIVING HIGH AS A SPY

I REMIND your Feb. 12 issue interesting reading, in particular Michael Frisvold's article about the Mueller informant who helped the RCMP arrest 35 young hitmen who were in Toronto ("The four million dollar rat," *National*, Feb. 12). How can someone justify an attempt to extort millions of dollars from the RCMP and taxpayers to live a life of comfort and then try to dishonestly package it as an effort to "maintain Islam's good name in Canada?" While I remember the RCMP for doing whatever it can to preserve our security, it seems like this person got away with a thousand money grab for information that he had no guarantee of any convictions. Everyday, ordinary citizens help police bring criminals to justice, not for

money or houses, but for the knowledge and satisfaction that it is the right thing to do. If it had been a member of his family who had been in jail or murdered in Madrid or London, the informant's motivations might have been different, or at the very least cheaper for the rest of us.

Brend Bruce, Kingston, Ont.



RUDDO (McMahon) on the exposure of this "star Muslim informant." Once the Toronto Star is in over, this high living, life-saving media needs to be fully exposed. If Stephen Harper on speaking to Muslim Amir for the RCMP's entanglement, what is stopping the RCMP from apologizing, this time for its human intelligence deal.

Jafar Hussein, Montreal, Que.

ADDING FUR TO THE FIRE

HEY, HEY, how eco-unfriendly is Greenpeace to use a fur for public hair in its photo-op on Pollution-Free (Capital Daily, Feb. 12). Furs are a petrochemical product derived from crude oil, a non-renewable resource using a lot of petrochemicals producing energy to make the recovery polymers in Greenpeace's use of the source of the product. Or is it a green using hypocrisy on the source of expertise to have a fur fundraising event?

Ann Weaver, St. John's, Nfld.

EVERYONE'S A CHEATER

SIXTH YEARS AGO I was quizzed about finding an acquaintance editing her child's university essays, a practice the continued right

through that child's post-graduate studies ("The great university cheating scandal," *Education*, Feb. 12). Since then I learned that it is not uncommon for university students to email essays to parents for editing, corrections or rewriting. From the casual and almost cavalier manner with which such parental submissions are dropped into course work, one can only conclude that this is a perfectly normal mode of behaviour, and I assume the aiding and abetting began long before the offering entered university. Is it just me, or is this not a form of deception? Perhaps we could call it fraud lite.

Laura Martin, Keweenaw

AS A MATH TEACHER at a university college, I see students who don't know their times tables, who don't know how to divide fractions, who can't figure out percentages problems, who can't use formulas and can't solve applied problems. My colleagues who teach English could open a similarly depressing tale regarding spelling, grammar, clear sentence structure and paragraph organization. And yet these students have earned their high school diplomas.

Geoff Dorn, Surrey, B.C.

FOLLOWING A LONG career teaching in elementary and secondary schools, I worked as a truck driver. Part of my training involved an all-day car or broken-down gears by an apparently reputable truck-driving school. At the end of the course, the class of some 50 men and women was given a test. The instructor handed out the sheets and all left the room. Soon the participants were walking around, discussing the questions. It was blatant cheating. I was appalled thinking these people could soon be licensed to drive 18-wheelers on our highways. Ridiculously cheating exists at all levels of education.

Dick Jones, Winton, Ont.

I STILL CLEARLY recall my furniture design course, where the final project was to build a desk chair. A classmate presented a store-bought chair that he disassembled and then reassembled, changing a few screws to make it look as though it was created from scratch. He was truthfully rewarded with an A. I also had classmates who paid other students to trace their technical drawings. Why were they doing that? Because they knew they could.

James Wang, Montreal

STAY HOME, SAY NO

AFTER READING your question and answer piece with author David Walsh (*Journalism*, Feb. 12), I am looking forward to reading his book, *No Wipe Kids—of All Ages—Need to Hear It and Why Parents Can Say No*. After more than 30 years of teaching high school, I can tell you that he is right on the money. Many parents do need to spend more time with their kids. We need find some way to make this happen. I'll have a monetary cost, but it may be cheaper than the problems that will have to be resolved in the future. It is time that parenting was viewed as a job and the stay-at-home parent as a full-time worker.

Keith Dell, Chatham, Ont.

EDIE SEDGWICK STYLE

WHEN BRAGGKING Edie Sedgwick's undergarment style, I object to Barbara Amiel comparing Edie to Paris Hilton ("Get out the fashion," *Post*, Feb. 18). Paris! Paris! Only in her dreams could Paris be such a fashion icon or anyone at all respectable.

Kerry Lawson, Sault, S.C.

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

I READ YOUR STORY about the opening of a 34-million infection disease laboratory in



PAL-LEASER: Paris has nothing on Edie.

Nairobi, which you say was paid for primarily by the Canadian government ("Out of Africa," *Good News*, Feb. 3). You failed to mention that the lab is a joint partnership between the University of Manitoba and the University of Nairobi. As one of only three such labs in all of Africa, it will play a central

role in the world-renowned HIV/AIDS research collaboration between the two universities. Through this partnership, U of M researchers have been instrumental in identifying that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted heterosexually and from mother to child in breast milk, and that a mucosal immunity to the disease exists among some sex workers. It has also developed new strategies for prevention of transmission. These findings are being applied in U of M HIV/AIDS prevention and research programs in India.

John C. Allen, Associate Vice President (International), University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

REACHING OUT

I THOUGHT that you might be interested to know how for your magazine travels. After I have finished with my work, I send it to my daughter in Ethiopia who shares it with friends and then sends it on to a refugee camp where it is one of the few sources available to help people learn English and about Canada.

Zula Johnston, Ottawa

THE FACT that you are sending your magazine to the troops in Afghanistan [from the editors, Feb. 12] makes me proud and pleased

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Five questions to ask your dentist about acid erosion.

1. What is it?

Acid erosion is a softening and gradual loss of the surface of the tooth's enamel. If you do nothing about acid erosion, it may lead to more serious dental problems.

2. How did I get it?

Probably as a direct result of consuming acids found in everyday food and drink, such as fruit juices, some soft drinks, fruit and wine. After contact with these acids, the surface of the enamel is softened, and then more vulnerable to the effects of brushing.

3. Why haven't I heard about this before?

Diets have changed a lot over recent years leading to a higher consumption of acids. But unfortunately acid erosion isn't easy to detect in the early stages. To the naked eye, teeth may look positively healthy. Only your dentist will know for sure if you have it. One early sign might be a slight sensitivity to cold, hot, or sweet things.



Your teeth can look healthy



But a dental light can reveal glossiness and translucent edges

4. What can I do about it?

Visit your dentist for the best advice. He may tell you that there's no need to avoid certain foods or drinks. Instead, think carefully about your eating and drinking habits. For example, don't drink fruit over in your mouth; swallow it as soon as you feel it is ready to be digested. Drink acidic drinks through a straw, avoiding your teeth, and wait at least an hour after consuming acidic food or drinks before brushing your teeth.

5. Can a simple thing like a toothpaste help?

Yes. It's important to start protecting your tooth's enamel now, because loss of enamel is irreversible. Sensodyne ProNamel is an everyday toothpaste specifically designed to help re-harden your tooth's softened enamel. It has low abrasivity, it's non-acidic, high in fluoride, and helps protect against the effects of acid erosion.

ASK YOUR DENTIST ABOUT ACID EROSION



www.ProNamel.ca

*Illustration of increased translucency, an effect of acid wear.



7 DAYS

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF PETER MACKAY

On Sunday night, Canada's foreign affairs secretary was booked at the *Rat Coast Music Awards* in Halifax for going onstage and confabbing with Torrance, then Ottawa, Conservative Mary Walsh proceeded to call the Conservatives the "new Tories of 1984, who can't even remember what even they're for." Mackay later reminded the press that he's human. On Friday, he'll meet in Ottawa with his old chum, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to discuss security.

Good news

Hometown heroes

The importance of honoring the heroic efforts of Canadian men and women serving in Afghanistan cannot be overstated. We were pleased to observe a ceremony at Ottawa's Chelsea Leisure on Monday, at which Governor General Michaëlle Jean and Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier presented military values medals to a soldier who risked their lives protecting their comrades. Among the recipients was Sgt. Patrick Tower, featured in *National's* 2006 Newsmakers of the Year issue, who received the Star of Military Valour for taking charge of a solitary operation when his commander was killed, and leading the troops safely away from enemy fire.

Duty calling

In a show of courage quite unheard of among today's young stars, Britain's Prince Harry is set to serve on the front lines in Iraq. This would make the 32-year-old officer the first member of the immediate royal family to serve in a combat zone since Prince Andrew went to the Falklands War in 1982. Military officials and the royal family have reportedly been discussing the possibility for months, convinced that the prince's presence in Iraq could pose increased risk for his comrades. Harry, his brother, and his brother-in-law, Prince Edward, are all expected to be home threatened to resign if he was prohibited from fighting with his "boys." Who knows? Perhaps his presence will inspire the Bushes to head the call.

Playback time

Canada's Supreme Court has decided to take a new evidence approach to disfigure cases. It has decided that parents who disfigure family or art objects can be held in contempt. In Ottawa

along, deadbeat parents—ever-widely publicized—now have to follow in support. To address the problem, the province's Ministry of Community and Social Services has launched a new joint program, where profiles of delinquent dads are posted and submitted to the courts. While we don't support public shaming as a rule, where the welfare of hundreds of thousands of children is involved, extreme negligence calls for extreme measures.

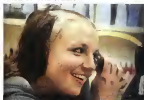
Bad news

Let them finish

The Tories and the Liberals were both accused of undermining the Air India inquiry this week. On Monday, former Supreme Court justice John Major, head of the probe into the 1985 disaster, indicated Stephen Harper's government reverses decision to keep key portions of the evidence secret, he will be unable to execute his mandate. The PM responded with a vague promise to "expedite resolution" of the dispute. Meanwhile, Stephen

Leveson, President Mahmoud Abbas in Jerusalem. Their sole resolution was to welcome again Sunday. The greatest obstacle is Abbas's insistence to form a unity government with Hamas, whose leaders refuse to accept pragmatic agreements, and whereby the U.S. uses "pressure and incentives" as the form of persuasion to those plans for the new alliance. The U.S. still lists Hamas as a terrorist group, which makes any future negotiations with a Palestinian unity government unacceptable.

FACE OF THE WEEK



HAZARD: After a stylist in an L.A. salon refused to shave Britney Spears' head on Friday, the pop star decided to do it herself.

Hepburn magic

At a time when hyped-up Hollywood pamphlets are reaching selectings proportions (Britney Spears' album *Just a Little Bit... Just a Little Bit* is set to be for sale online for US\$1 million), it is heartening to see that some good can come of celebrity worship. In December, the classic black Gwendolyn dress worn by Audrey Hepburn to the premiere of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* spent a bidding frenzy as Christie's in London and ultimately sold for close to US\$1 million. Now, proceeds from the sale are being used to fund 15 new educational centres in India.

It is opposing an extension to two provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act—which allow for pre-emptive arrests and convictions—on human rights grounds. However, without these provisions, the Air India inquiry, not to mention many and fewer counterterrorism investigations, could be placed in jeopardy.

Enemy at the table

Hamas continues to be a major roadblock in the way of peace talks in the Middle East. On Monday, Condoleezza Rice spent a fairly two hours in meeting with Israeli PM Ehud Olmert and Pal-

Fitness failings

Canadians have grown fat, so the government has decided to pour \$5 million into launching the classic Participation ad campaign. It's a nice thought, but the money could certainly have been better spent. In News last, for example, a plan to introduce mandatory gym classes for all high school students this fall is now being postponed due to a lack of funding. Perhaps we'll have to be content with tans watching Joanne Whalley-Kilmer exercise on *The*

Fuzzy math

Once slated as their graduation in Iraq, the U.S. and Britain are now sending dramatically reduced numbers. The BBC reported this week that, contrary to Tony Blair's recent claim that pulling troops out of Iraq by October would be "impossible," the British PM is now set to withdraw thousands of British soldiers, an estimated 1,500 within weeks. Officials reportedly expect that 1,000 British troops will leave the southern Iraq by late 2007, presuming security is under control. Bush called Blair's decision "a sign of success" in Iraq, a decision that given he has ordered a "range" of 21,000 U.S. troops. ■

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON THE PM'S VALENTINE'S DAY AND A FLOOR-CROSSER'S REGRETS?



Portrait of Adrienne Clarkson.
Inset: Mary Pratt.

DREW BARRYMORE
AND THE VICEROY
CONSORT

Admiral Clarkson is one of the few people brave enough to have had their portrait painted by the renowned Mary Port. At the unveiling of Clarkson's official governor general portrait at Rideau Hall, the Newfoundland artist noted, "I wanted to be a portrait painter when I was a kid. I wasn't really good at first. It made a name of a few of them. People were very interested and wanted their money back. So I decided I wouldn't do it." Since then, portraits by her have been rare. Clarkson's body as the official portrait is based on a photo Pratt took more than 20 years ago after her long-time friend. The face is based on a recent portrait taken by the artist's biographer **son Ned Pratt**.

After the unswerving ceremony, Laureen Harper, wearing a stellar grey suit with pink paisiepple, told Michaelle Jean's husband, James Daniel Leiford, that she, a few girlfriends and the PM caught the Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore film *Music and Lyrics* on Valentine's Day. "It's a chick flick," Mrs. Harper hastened to explain, to the former professor of philosophy. On Valentine's night, all the other party leaders were at a special intimate dinner in the West Block and on be the Canadian

Manitoba Network for Humanitarian Assistance will, Monday. The PM was invited, but the GNM said the Tories under secretary Jason Kenney, offered a state for another husband and Canadian identity. The GNM told the Conservatives it was party leaders or not one. At the dinner, Arar was presented with a framed copy of his apology letter from Stephen Harper, which included the carefully chosen words, "Although the errors occurred under the last government, please rest assured that this government will do everything in its power to ensure that the issues raised by Commissioner G. Chénier are addressed."

Also on the Valentine's front: Winning NIP/MIP **Judy Waples** Len always buys her mail Valentine's gifts. Last year they got chocolate. This year she grabbed four copies of **Janet Heath's** new book *Dead Game Mops, Possibility and Unity* for Canadian Progressives at the Ottawa launch held at the Parliamare Pub—apparently a book

STEPHEN AND LAUREN HAPPER chat with Q2 Minnesota's Juan and Juan-Carlos Lombardi. [Click!](#) *Official Website: Mike's Army*



lobbying for the destruction of the Liberal party seemed just as sweet. Two cups were for the staff, one was for her, and the fourth was for her mother because "I'm on the index," says the MP.

WHERE WAS
THAT WINE
FROM AGAIN?

The Grand Hall at the Canadian Museum of Civilization was packed for the Canadian Arab Business Council annual gala dinner. Ambassadors from all the Arab countries attended, including Egypt's Mohamed El Saeed and the one female ambassador of the group, Fátma Hassan Taha of Sudan. As of January there has been no room in the

Grand theft, according to museum staff, several torture poles have been removed. Officially it was over concern they were being damaged, but some folks think it's so the museum can create museum tables for functions. The keynote speaker that night was international trade minister and floor-crosser David Emerson. The chairman of the CAEC, and



INTERNATIONAL Trade Minister
Emerson (Oleff) party wine

Booz, the interim leader told him that he might regret it and to drink twice. Emerson shooked the crowd when he said he wished he had listened to Graham.

he had listened to Graham (Can you double down once after you double cross your party?) Later in the night, Laszlo, who was pleased to report that this was the third year that wine was being served at the event. He was especially excited, because that the wine was from Algeria and the red was from Tunisia. Upon closer inspection of the bottles though, Capital Dory saw that in fact these were not wines from both Tunisia and Algeria. The whites, however, were from those countries' former colonial neighbors, France. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa outtakes or to contact Michael Beggs, visit [mikebeggs.ca/](http://mikebeggs.ca/mike@mikebeggs.ca)
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CARNIVAL: PRELUDE TO PENANCE

Millions of people crowded city streets this week for some good old-fashioned public obscenity—and a little political satire—before Lent.

1. A float with a real live buffet table passes by at the international carnival parade in Croatia's port city of Rijeka.
2. Effigies of French President Jacques Chirac and right-wing presidential hopeful Nicolas Sarkozy are marched through the streets during carnival festivities in Nice.
3. The drum-queen of the *Winkidjara* samba school during a two-night event in Rio de Janeiro.
4. Wearing masks that legend has it helped locals scare away the Turks in the 16th century, a group of Hungarians like to show off when crossing the river Danube during the carnival in Budapest, Hungary.
5. Performers in Colombia's annual *Carnaval de Barranquilla*.
6. Jacques Chirac is the "king of the big screen" in Nice.
7. A giant paper mache head is paraded on all fours through Disseldorf during the annual *Rosa Monday* carnival.





'Little girls know about sex and men's interests. We did—we got paid in candy for letting this man touch our bums.'

BARBARA GOWSDY TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT THE LINE BETWEEN SEXUALIZING CHILDREN AND PEDOPHILIA, AND HER NEW BOOK, 'HELPLESS'

Q I've heard you say you didn't want to write a book about a gynephiliac, but you've written a book about a gynephiliac who's a little girl because he has sexual feelings for her. Is it more or less a child molester and a lot of people would consider that a monster, no?

A I would say a monster is someone who intends harm and does harm. My character, Ron, has a moral dilemma; he hasn't so much as laid his hands on her. He tells himself that she is being harmed in her home and that he is molesting her.

Q What we're really saying is that the reader knows he's being harmed, but he's convinced himself that he's being harmed because it's a way of vindicating himself. We all tend to excuse ourselves when we do bad things. So, in a way, I don't think any character is a monster; having sexual feelings for a little girl, I think, is something someone who acts on those feelings.

Q Are you suggesting that having sexual feelings for little girls is normal?

A I'm suggesting it's probably more widespread than we know, and there's a lot of men who control the machines and have decided that "I can't help what I feel but I can help how I behave." Most of us have that dilemma, in some spheres or not. I just offer other women or men but just because I have the feeling doesn't mean I have the action. Sex is a dilemma; it's not an answer, and I also

think that the present culture encourages men to have sexual feelings for children.

Q How?

A Well, TV and movies, the way little girls are encouraged to dress and dance. I don't have children so I spend some time with my son and my daughter. I was startled by the clothes they wear, they show their bellies, they wear makeup, some of them. The more they listen to, they're very meek of lip, they know way more about sex than I did at that age. While they may not be having sex they say they have a boyfriend.

Q At what age?

A Ten. And all this makes it harder for them. There was a book last year called *A Moment of the Sex Children* by Mark Goren. It talks about how men can't quite discern the line between right and wrong feelings regarding pretty young girls, and how they're almost encouraged to cross the line. When it's okay to have harmful feelings for a girl? At 16-year-old girl who looks 10, or that okay? At a 14-year-old girl who looks 16? Clearly not. At your daughter or niece, but how about the girl down the street who's 10, you know, going out to clubs and has a boyfriend and you've seen her having sex on her car or something?

Q There's no doubt kids are more sexually involved today, but on the other hand there is so much social concern about men acting in sexual interest in young girls today than ever before. We're really against it, there's almost a hysteria about it.

A Yes, we believe it's almost the worst feel-

ing you can have, as a gay—sexual interest in a child, girl or boy. It didn't used to be the case. I mean, when I was a girl in the '50s there were what we called funny men or gypsies—the million we saw, there was a guy down the street who in exchange for a candy would grope you. And we took advantage of that because we wanted the candy. And we knew their men were creepy, stupid, and late in a way, but we weren't frightened by them. **Q** But rarely they weren't accepted as something others?

A No, we were just told not to go near them. And I've talked to women in their 20s and 30s about what happened to them when they were young—creaky under the former next door, and they all seemed to have had an experience, and their mothers all said the same thing, "Just stay away from him if you don't like it. Don't go near him, he's strange." And I think there's a tricky argument here for the fact that men being allowed to go away with young little girls who look like girls to be. Nowadays, the minute a man touches a little girl he's better off dead because his life is in danger. You know the man who killed that girl? He's in prison in Toronto, he said that he was watching porn and got so revved up he went out and grabbed the first girl he saw, got her naked and realized he was not so much brought to do anything with her, but that he knew he had to kill her. In any day that we have been let go, and he would have known that that would have been all right. [He's not saying men should be able to grab children off

the street—I mean, I'd be the first to want to shoot them—but the fact is this guy felt he had no choice.

Q But can you as a parent say to your daughter, "Look, he groped you, it's all right, get over it." I'd never be able to say that.

A No, our parents just said, "Don't do that. Don't go out in the middle of 'Noddy' thought of promoting them, they just said, "Leave him alone."

Q And you think that he couldn't have, generally speaking?

A It keeps the child safe. I don't know whether it's healthy or not. I don't think men should grope little girls. I'm questioning all that, now, and I don't have a hard-and-fast solution, but I think that when parents feel guilty it's not so easy to let their children do anything, and that includes how they dress and whether or not they get to see makeup. I wasn't allowed to wear makeup till I was 18, you know? Of course I did. I put on my own adult underwear. But I think that getting parents into something completely confused and behaving badly.

Q We have to be careful, don't we, not to confuse things like groping with more serious sexual offenses like child rape.

A Sure. Well, sure, any sexual offense with a child in its way is unforgivable, and I don't know kids but if I were one of your sons, or if I had kids who were interested with, I'd want to shoot the guy's head off. I mean, I'd like to control all rights, not just of little girls but of women, too.

Q Seriously?

A Yeah. Yeah, that would stop it. Let's say a repeat offender, because the first one you can't be so sure, but with a repeat offender, I'd do it myself. Of course, we have to remember there are degrees of wickedness, and I don't think we should lump in the men who stare with the men who rape, or even the men who say something with the men who rape. And the thing about my character as he's at the fairground is all of the spectators, if one could put a thumb, is that he hasn't got done anything, he looks at girls.

Q Okay, but he did do something and hold her for a period of time.

A Okay, and we know he's at risk of molesting her sexually, but he's not molesting her sexually, he's just looking at her and groping her a little bit, and he's told her that. Let's say she really was being sexually molested in her home, that we're on her side. If you put yourself in his shoes.

Q Well, not really kidnapping or really

the night surprise.

A Let's say she was from a home where the mother was abusing her sexually, and she would think, "I wish, just get her away from there, please her." So, from his point of view, and I was trying to see it from his point of view, he's not a monster. He's more aware to his circumstances, not his lust.

Q But how can you separate those two things? He wants her because he lusts for her, doesn't he?

A He loves her because she's beautiful.

Q Yes.

A He sees her beauty. He's not unlike Lewis Carroll, who took naked pictures of little girls and girls in quite compromising positions—but he never understood to his last to the degree that he touched them or penetrated them or harmed them physically in any way, and these women, when they get older, and he was the most lovelorn. They had fond memories of him, and we know from his diaries he had unlovely thoughts and feelings.

Q But most of us would draw the line well before taking pictures of naked girls.

A In those days it was more permissible, from men of understanding that men go through in young female beauty. That's a huge difference between crying a little girl and looking at her. It was my daughter, or my son, a little girl. I'd prefer to get looked at rather than raped.

Q But it's not an abuse, is it?

A No, but it's an embarrassing thing. I wonder if men, generally for the time being, he's having himself from how you go with him. That's something to be and far his innocent. I've asked myself questions like, "Would I rather have been physically abused once by a man who is a child molester from a real loving home, or would I prefer to have been psychologically abused at home by you as a child while being left alone sexually?" They're both awful, but I think I would take my quick hit, you know? Little girls know about sex and they know about men's anatomy, and certainly we did when I was a girl because we were getting paid in suckers to let this man touch our bums. It's known that these feelings exist, and I don't think little girls are self-conscious or apologetic about it in their parents. Their parents know where it comes from, of course, but if it doesn't lead there.

Q And that's that one of the reasons for your interest: fear as to where it could lead?

A Well, I think this is all tied into the oversexualization of young kids. I think that's really the problem, less child molesters and more men who are not, but kids can't do anything on their own, they're on their side. If you put yourself in his shoes.

Q Well, not really kidnapping or really

we're clear on that, right?

A Yes, we're clear on that. We're clear that it's wrong, but if you believe a child is unprepared it's a little more legitimate than if he's grabbed her out of a male home.

Q Yes, but your character is making up excuses of abuse in her home in order to molest her or make his advances in the girl. We don't really approve of that, do we?

A We don't approve of that, but I put it to you that most of us make up rationalizations for our actions. And don't forget, this is a love story. He really loves her girl.

Q That's a very bold definition of love.

A He falls head over heels in love with her at first sight. That's a very narrow definition of that, just we're not somebody so beautiful you don't even see what her role

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vision is or what her family's life or what her beliefs are, you're just looking out. Ron thinks this girl is the most beautiful thing he's ever seen. And the reason I despised her as beautiful was that I didn't want her just to be like your typical lover of children, pedophile—a word I never in the book, by the way—I didn't want him to be just another cold-blooded and heartless. He's attracted to her, his eyes, her shoulders, her walk, you know, the things that men are attracted to in women. I never felt about much more than I saw, even I was looking her over in the gutter because I couldn't completely believe his sexual feelings—it wouldn't be true, but he didn't have a father and mother—well, I think men have the opportunity to have sex with the female of their

dreams and who obtains are pretty heavy.

Q: Even if she happens to be poor?

A: Well, that's why he's got to live off it.

Q: So we're considering Ben as a hero?

A: I think he's a type of hero that isn't addressed much in fiction or in culture or society, the people who are burdened with unusual desires and feelings who do their best to obtain out of a state that their way of life really doesn't want to harm her. He hates pedophilia, he hates those who view the law as an afterthought to thinking for people who are like what we consider our worst selves.

Q: Can you be honest about him without saying he's a pedophile?

A: Well, he has pedophilic feelings. He hasn't actually done anything yet...

Q: Knappe kidnapping a little girl because he's attracted to her.

A: Except kidnapping, yeah. But isn't that on the same spectrum of behavior as Madonna, who goes to the Third World and just gets a kid out of its culture because she wants a little black kid? I guess, I can't really speak for Madonna's feelings, and I'd like to err on the side of sympathy, but I wonder if that child is just unnecessary for her. There she's going to give the boy a whole lot of stuff, but is she going to give him that deep, feminist love that children require? She kind of kidnapped him. You tell yourself you're doing something forced by his innocence, and we all agree that you are, but wouldn't it maybe be better to just pay whatever it costs to raise a child?

Q: That you're coming close to rationalizing Ben's kidnapping...

A: Well, actually, I was degrading this other kind of kidnapping. I was comparing on the side of not watching children off the screen when they're suspended.

Q: Why did you want to understand this sort of character? I mean, as a novelist, you can choose any subject you want.

A: It takes me a long time to come up with an idea for a book. I started asking myself big questions in order to come up with an idea, and I asked myself, "What's the worst thing that could happen to a person?" And the answer I came up with was losing a child just losing a child into the ether, not knowing if it's dead or alive, waiting up everyday wondering that would be hell on earth. I decided to write partly from the author's point of view because I was interested in someone with a big Shakespearean moral dilemma, and this is about the biggest dilemma you could have today. I realized that I wasn't had to have sympathy for Ben but I wasn't asking the reader to feel sympathy for Ben. I was just trying to make him dimensional.

Q: I think even in the end there will be lots of people who argue that by treating him as a human being you're letting him off their own

feet saying that those kinds of feelings and that kind of behavior something we should be more understanding of and perceive about.

A: I'm not making that kind of judgment. I'm not saying we should be more understanding.

Q: No, I said that's how people are going to perceive it.

A: I know, I'm aware that that's possible. And I could have made him more of a monster, more heinous, but that didn't seem true enough. I want to make him true, and the truth is that even the worst of us have some redeemable or good behaviors. He's too human for his own twisted good, or he's too twisted for his human good, and he's caught between those two places. And what I'm saying is that between the widely behavior and our behavior, is a place where we all come, and he's closer to the bad side than most of us but he's there anyway.

Q: We've got a real tension between the way our culture presents girls and young men, as highly sexualized beings, and what we understand as permeable male behavior. How do we resolve that?

A: I think it actually comes back down to parenting, saying yes or no to their children. My parents had no problem disciplining their kids. They seemed to have some sort of authority out there in the world. Now, a rape-peddler that wears hip-hugging pants and a top that shows her belly and her nipples in class age is almost telling her parents to go screw themselves. I mean, it's not respectful either. I'm sounding like a total lady.

Q: Where we are not to feel sympathy for people with unconventional urges are we more in danger of losing our ability to desire some thing really bad to be really bad?

A: I would agree with that. I don't say any of this for the sake of sensationalism. But getting people into rage in order that they're capable of punishing bad behavior might not be the way to go, either. I think the bad behavior should be punished. But we can't mean to put anyone to death or fight wars unless we think of the other as absolutely evil. It's almost not human to say, "No-no-no, this isn't a human being, this person has no feelings of love, or this person can't love his own children, or he has an understanding of sex or anything, he's just an absolute monster and that gives us the right to kill him." How about, "He's pretty monstrous in ways that the society can't tolerate, and despite all of our other fine qualities we're going to have to kill him."

Q: Yes, as death is an accounting.

A: I actually believe in an accounting. I mean, when Paul Bernardo went to jail, I had

fantasies of hanging him, being a snapper and standing on a freshly building, and I could kill Paul Bernardo because of what he did. I think I could kill him. I do have a real vengeful corner. I'm not a villain. But even though I do believe in vengeance, to a degree, I also believe in an accounting.

Q: Why is society so interested in stories like *Harry Potter* or *Joe Foxer Ratway*. They're not so. Is it present interest or actual moral anxiety?

A: It's our worst fear. It's a moral outrage but it's also a moral first-class outrage. In person in person of where my passion is, I mean, I try and love animals, and anything that seems innocent, environment. And I am... those... I'm not unlike Ross in that I sort of can fall in love with children. I just don't have the last component, but everything else was easy to write, but... the way he feels about children



'Our culture encourages sexual feelings for children—look at how girls are encouraged to dress'

And women get to feel that way. I go to go to the park and see a beautiful little girl and say, "Oh, isn't she gorgeous?" and I get to tickle him and smell his head... and men can do that anymore. I remember my father—he died now—he loved little kids, and he thought their minds were wild, and how their heads would, and he said—he'd go to the mall with any mom—and he says, "I can't look at that child anymore. Everyone thinks you're a creep if you ever look at them." ■

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Do immigrants need rules? The debate rages on.

Hérouxville's clumsy effort at creating some sparks questions on the limits of tolerance
BY BENOIT AUBIN AND JONATHAN GATHEHOUSE

It is responsible to miss the two-day passage of the freight train that rips through Hérouxville, in the morning, when clattering, bells ringing as the crossing the track as through the main thoroughfare, and traffic stops for several minutes. Then, after the train has vanished into a cloud of smoke and shifting snow, silent and quiet again for three nights, and the people of Hérouxville can make the time, knowing that very little else will come to stir their peace and tranquillity until the same train rips back as the opposite direction 11 hours later.

That was life for the 1,300 inhabitants of this small village, 200 km northwest of Montreal, until, this is, they became the focus of a global controversy that touched off passions, and often violent, reactions across the country and as far away as Turkey, Russia and Australia. "I don't know if it will go back to normal, if it will ever be the same again," says Nicole Jaber, who runs a small B&B frequented mostly by European tourists seeking northern adventures in some remote and dog sled. "We would have thought, a small village like here, creating a site that goes all around the world?"

Top Hérouxville into Google News, U.K., and you'll find 18 pages of headlines. Search for Hérouxville in the French, Italian, or Spanish media, and you'll learn how popular "schooling" and "learning" is in many languages. The five-page document that the Hérouxville council adopted on Jan. 25, purporting, somewhat nervously, to inform immigrants of what to expect if they choose to set up shop in this corner of Quebec's snowy hinterland (a town known that has yet to happen) has become a worldwide embarrassment.

The list of community "standards," which



THE SMALL, rural-life village made news in the wake of Turkey, Russia and Australia



drawn on the results of a crude, 20-question opinion poll of 104 area residents, managed to offend practically everyone. Muslim felt they were blatantly asked that the only time they may make or cover your face in Hérouxville is at Eid (Eid). Not to mention an explicit prohibition on wearing, live burning or displaying women with and J-falls said, subject in the rules that children may not carry any weapons "real or fake, symbolic or not" to school, a clear reference to a high-profile recent battle that gave a Montreal boy the right to carry a religious dagger (dagger to school). Jews could feel echoes of a racist due up between a Hasidic synagogue and a neighbouring YMCA in Ontario in the proclamation that gym in Hérouxville have windows through which you might glimpse women wearing out "appropriate exercise wear." The reasonable even included a message for born again Christians: biology is taught in local schools.

The media had a field day. Montreal's *La Presse* touched off the frenzy with a front-page story on Jan. 27 "Tweaked up the morning after, and there were three tentative trucks

parked at my door, anonymous deployed, and I went: 'who, what's going on?' says Luc Paquin, whose small, brightly lit grocery store, Le 24/7, across the street from the church, caters the village's downtown core. Herdies of reporters descended. City Hall's puny town mayor, no puny town council, and a budget of \$1.1 million was swamped. Vandalism, vandalism at night, several hold-ups and signs with graffiti calling them fascists. A delegation of Muslim women—sponsored by the Canadian Islamic Congress—arrived from Montreal, bearing Middle Eastern piths and small gifts. The photos that make most of the papers showed a high-ranking woman waving her finger at a town councilor. The "local despair" "We've pulled a



ENOUGH: Hérouxville residents Louise Trudel and Marcelle Samois debate the finer points of "reasonable accommodation"

It became an international embarrassment. 'We've pulled a fire alarm,' says one resident, 'and they're calling us arsonists.'

fire alarm here, but everyone is calling us arsonists," says Paquin.

In Montreal, the grand bachelors of Hérouxville became the butt of locker jokes on radio phone-ins and late-night talk shows. France's *Le Monde* newspaper scooped them of embarking on a "sociological crusade." But so the furor subsided, there are signs that their hair-breadth attempts to educate newcomers may have struck a deeper chord. The town clerk is has received several thousand "steady approval" emails from all over the world. Quebec Premier Jean Charest has ordered a high-profile commission of inquiry into how the province's system isolates newcomers. And all of a sudden, Canadians are talking about the previously unthinkable. Have we reached the point where we need hard and fast rules for immigrants? A code that spells out just what is expected of newcomers, and how far society is willing to go

to help them feel comfortable in their new home? Just such a debate has been raging for months in Quebec. Now it shows signs of spreading to the rest of Canada. Has a country that prides itself on its multiculturalism along with its health care and hockey in the protection of its great achievements finally reached the limits of tolerance?

BENOIT MERTIN has a way of making the most of it. And it was late last fall, during one of his many evening news shows that Hérouxville town council his upon an idea that sounded like a lot more fun. "We were preparing a 30-year development plan for the city, looking for domains that could foster, or harbor growth," says André Desrosiers, the mayor, who called political parties of the immigrants' code, "whereas we mentioned 'reasonable accommodations' as a potential cost factor in the future." Over the past few

years, accommodations—the policies, practices labeled offered to a series of diverse minorities between religious groups and civil society—have become a hot topic in Quebec. Recent examples include female exposure prevented from driving, testing Hindu boys seeking a citizenship, an Arab-Muslim driver expelled from a Jewish hospital for wearing a headscarf, Muslim women demanding that men be barred from parental centres, and a father stopped from accompanying his young son to the pool during women's swimming hours.

"To me, the problem is obvious: if these people come here, and then make such outlandish demands, it must be because they were not well informed of how we do things here in the first place," says Desrosiers. The solution was quickly sketched out, a simple document outlining how things would—might—develop in the development on the Christmas tree—in



1 SHOULDN'T BE BRANDED A RACIST," says the motor-fueled grandfather of Hérouville's code, city council member André Drouin

It's not about race, Drouin insists—it's about the 'fanaticism of three or four religious groups' that he refuses to name

a small, rural Québec town. No one was trying to legislate new rules, says the councillor (mayors/councillors don't have that sort of power anyway), they just wanted officials in Québec City and Ottawa to include the document in their information packages for would-be immigrants. "Not everyone noticed our view as a friendly gesture, a gesture of welcoming, not of rejection or exclusion," says Drouin. "I'll plan to live in Saudi Arabia or Pakistan. I'll want information about what I'll find there. Immigrants should be informed of what they'll find here." The 60-year-old former military man takes pains to explain that he invoked the tolerance of would-be settlers in Hérouville and can speak several languages. "I shouldn't be branded a racist just because I explain who we are," he says. Besides, says Drouin, the debate over reasonable accommodation isn't about race anyway but "the fanaticism of three or four religious groups" he refuses to name.

In the past, that sort of divisive political discourse has shored inside Canadians—both inside and outside of Québec—deeply uneasy. But there are signs that may be changing in the post-9/11 world. In Europe, there's a lengthening list of formerly open societies that have chosen to raise the drawbridge. Terrorist attacks in Madrid and London, widespread rioting in France, and the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh have stoked fears that allowing immigrants—especially Muslims—to keep their own customs has created a growing "us and them" divide. France has banned the wearing of the hijab in schools, and the Netherlands is debating whether to go even further, outlawing veils, burkas and head coverings in all public places. (The once liberal Dutch already boast the toughest immigration rules in Europe, testing the tolerance of would-be newcomers by paying their reactions to scenes of homosexuals kissing and nude beaches.) Norway now requires new immigrant applicants to take 100 hours of language classes. And the U.K. has introduced legislation that will bar all non-European workers (including Canadians) from carrying firearms 10 weeks next year.

Support for similar measures in Canada is by no means overwhelming, but it can be found in some surprising corners. "Multiculturalism allows people to accommodate our dif-

ferences," says Turuk Fathi, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress, a liberal advocacy group. "It's really forcing people not to be part of a cohesive society." Fathi would like to see Canadian authorities go even further than their Dutch counterparts, educating all would-be immigrants about not just what to expect in Canada, but the values of social progress, equality and democracy they will be required to embrace here. "I'm talking about promoting this country with a passport," he says. Canadians' well-entrenched reluctance to talk openly about our expectations of immigrants simply masks a growing leftist anger, says Fathi. "I had my nice Muslim friends call me honestly when we discussed around, don't you see, 'Who the F--- are these guys?'" Canada is welcoming a quarter-million new arrivals every year, most of them visible minorities, hailing from countries where English or French is not the predominant language, and practices and traditions differ greatly from daily life in Halifax, Montreal or Saskatoon. In the past, the country's largest urban centers have borne the brunt of that transformation (visible minorities now



Ben Chabrowsky (2007) Associated Press/Courtesy

My name EULIEN DEGENERES

Childhood ambition TO WORK WITH ANIMALS

Lowest memory I CAN'T RECALL, BUT I'M SURE I'M FOND OF IT.

Indulgence DOING NOTHING

Last purchase TEXTER

Favorite movie WORLD ACCORDING TO GARY, OUT OF AFRICA

Inspiration KINDNESS

My life IS PERFECT, EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT

My read IS AMERICAN EXPRESS



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make up 25 per cent of Toronto's population, and 49 per cent of its residents were born outside of Canada) but that too is changing. In the mid 1990s, the southern African community of Toronto looked like much of Toronto: Canada—white and Christian. Today, thanks to the numerous labour needs of one local employer—the giant Lakeside meat packing plant—it's one of the most diverse cities in the country: 35 per cent of its 12,000 residents are visible minorities, representing every nation in Africa and speaking 25 different languages.

RESTAURANT OWNER Fergan Dabow (left), the daughter of Muslim women, and the media cover is 1990s



Some languages. Mayor Don Wewers makes it clear that he's proud of its changing face. But such massive change doesn't happen smoothly. Some locals have pointed out the accommodations, including curfews at the community pool as Muslims worship can seem without worrying about the gaze of men. Other difficulties like the language barriers, or the "social" distrust and fear of police or any unaffiliated authority (from new residents of Toronto as refugees from war-torn countries), are harder to solve. More money, support and programs to educate immigrants about the Canadian way of life are needed, says the mayor. "I don't think we should be apologetic about the fact that we want the people to learn our language, to learn our culture, and be able to work with us."

Donna Madhry, the executive director of the Global Friendship Immigration Centre, says few of the newcomers she deals with seem to understand the Canadian vision of democracy and respect for the country's diversity. She tells the tale of a package deal

that promises of immigration in Canada has always been fairly good. Successive waves of new arrivals have found comfort and support within their own communities, creating enclaves that allowed them to live, work and shop in their mother tongues. It's their kids and grandchildren who have mastered English or French, moved to the suburbs and become fully integrated Canadians.

But these days, there are troubling signs that the tried and true methods of assimilation may no longer be working. A recent Statistics Canada study concluded that the low-income rate (\$18,600 for a family of four) among recent immigrants is twice that of those born in Canada. Unemployment and underemployment rates

remain stubbornly high. The study that has caused the most consternation, however, is a recent paper by University of Toronto sociologist Jeffrey Reitz and economist Rupa Bhattacharya, which found the children of visible minority immigrants not only feel "less Canadian" than their white counterparts, but report more discrimination than their parents. The plan when they reach that "majority" level is to report some discrimination, says Reitz. "That certainly sounds to me like the system is broken." The questions for a debate about how we treat newcomers, he adds, and what we expect in return, are certainly still being asked.

The question is, what's really driving the agenda? On October 11, 2016, politicians have been joking and kidding Canadians, writing signs of a growing intolerance. But support for immigration—even at Canada's relatively high levels—has remained robust. We firmly reject the notion that would be Canadians should have their religious beliefs and values screened before admission—68 per cent according to an Environics poll last fall. And more of 80–90 per cent—both new arrivals should be free to retain their religious and cultural practices, should be required to "blend in" (50 per cent). In turn, a recent CBC poll of Canada's Muslim community showed more than 80 per cent of respondents said they were broadly satisfied with their lives in this country. Seventy-three per cent were "very proud" to be Canadian, only 17 per cent thought their fellow citizens were hostile to Islam. The most frequent complaint was this country's cold weather.

Jack Jodanis, executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies in Montreal, says the growing debate over accommodation is a phony war—old time "multiculturalism" is being "misrepresented as a political doctrine." It's a charge a group of people have a new idea and are very uncomfortable about how our diversity is evolving, he says, noting polls that suggest just 10 per cent of Canadians are uneasy with the idea of a Muslim as a neighbour. "I think there's a big divide among opinion leaders, but not among the general population."

And certainly it's not true to suggest that the country doesn't already have rules for immigrants. We've drawn explicit legal lines outlawing cultural practices like polygamy and female circumcision. And we do make efforts to educate arrivals about how to fit in

and how to live. The study that has caused the most consternation, however, is a recent paper by University of Toronto sociologist Jeffrey Reitz and economist Rupa Bhattacharya, which found the children of visible minority immigrants not only feel "less Canadian" than their white counterparts, but report more discrimination than their parents. The plan when they reach that "majority" level is to report some discrimination, says Reitz. "That certainly sounds to me like the system is broken." The questions for a debate about how we treat newcomers, he adds, and what we expect in return, are certainly still being asked.



My name: *MARTIN DABOW*
childhood ambition: *TO GET OUT OF MY HOME TOWN*
fondest memory: *MY PARENTS AT THE PREMIERE OF "MYN STREETS" 1973*
intelligence: *CLOTHES*
last purchase: *1/2 PAPER OF SUSHI FROM A.M.A. ITALY*
favorite movie: *THEY ARE LEGEND*
inspiration: *OTHER FILMMAKERS*
My life: *STILL WORKING ON IT*
My card: *IS AMERICAN EXPRESS*



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A MUSLIM GOODWILL: Integration in the town brought Muslim-Godwin families and girls

There are signs the old ways of assimilation aren't working in Canada. Immigrant kids report more discrimination, not less.

For example, "A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada," a pamphlet published by the federal Department of Citizenship and Immigration, bears more than a passing resemblance to the Himmah's declaration. Both agree, in similar language, that children are required to attend school, and that violence toward them is unacceptable. Both broadly raise the issue of some sex parenting, and both note women's equality to men, although the Himmah will make nothing to the immigration. Listing a woman's rights to "drive a car, vote, sign contracts, decide for herself, speak her piece, dress as she sees fit."

The crux of the debate, it seems, is how pointed we are willing to be with our advice, rules and guidelines. The most striking element of the current government guide is what it barely touches—social standards. Our best advice to immigrants on how to fit in? Avoid drinking, learn to wait in line, and "be getting for a better price is not common."

And whether or not we want to discuss them, accommodations for immigrants are now a daily fact of life in Canada. Peel District School Board, just west of Toronto, has one of the most diverse student bodies in the country. It was one of the first boards to allow students to wear karpas to school, and hours

politics and procedure first are all embracing. "We acknowledge everything from Dava to Dill to Himmah to Christian," says director of communications Brian Woodford. Students are allowed to wear veils in class "because that's a statement of religious expression." If parents oppose art classes in which their child must draw people, which is common in some faiths, they skip the curriculum. "It's our understanding that we will need to change. It's not just the people who come to the school system who make the decisions," says Woodford, but there are limits. For example, the board won't let faith leaders come onto the school grounds and preach sermons. "There are times when people must accommodate to the point where the heart of the curriculum isn't left," says Woodford. "And we say no to that."

Even the immigrant communities themselves aren't immune from all of that should go. Professor Mohamed Elmhay, national president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, likes the idea of the blue ribbon panel that will make recommendations on how Quebecers might bear live with one another, but he balks at turning suggestions into guidelines or rules. "It brings a flashback of Nazi attitudes toward Jews, or stereotypical attitudes

toward Blacks," he says. Since that's not impossible to "narrowly define what are Canadian values and culture," Elmhay says, supply and demand should be the rule of thumb. If a "critical mass" of people demand only rule-driven's better in person, then meet the need, he says. "Canada is a mosaic of religions. We should accommodate one another."

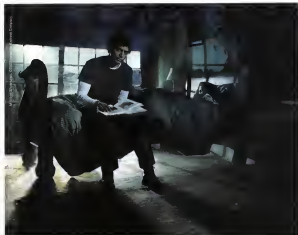
Our checked history suggests that Canada—a nation of immigrants—has frequently been caught up in the uncomfortable business of balancing the interests of established citizens and newer arrivals. The principle difference in recent years is that the immigrants don't automatically lose. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms has altered the playing field, and ushered in court decisions that have changed the face of Canada in a disquieting clip. The pendulum, however, shows signs of swinging back. The Toronto terror arrests in 41st last summer's eruptions from Lebanon have sparked a new debate about what citizens, new and old, owe Canada. And there are many who think we've been a little too flexible, and not quite demanding enough.

Advocate Clarkson, Canada's former governor-general, argues that there is a pressing

need to better integrate newcomers into the mainstream. "We understand that these people will become Canadians in two or three generations, but I don't think we have time for that anymore," says Clarkson, who now heads the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, an organization that promotes civic participation and integration. "It should be accomplished within five to 10 years." If Canada is going to continue to successfully absorb 250,000 people a year, Clarkson says we need more public debate and education about our national values, not less. Simply focusing on unwritten rules, or more flexible accommodations, won't do the trick. New and old Canadians will have to learn to adapt to the changing realities—everything from health services to same-sex marriages—just as their predecessors did in the past.

"We all have to get over the idea that these differences are impossible. That's basically fear," says Clarkson. This one shall pass. "Remember when we worried so much about somebody in the RCMP with a turban?" he asks. "Well, the last time I saw the Masai Kiki, there were two turbans, and no one seemed to care." ■

With Cindy Gallo and Nancy Mandel



My name M. Night Shyamalan
 childhood ambition Rhino's cube champion
 greatest memory Kissing my wife in the rain
 childhood hero Basketball
 last purchase Moby Dick
 favorite movie The Godfather
 respondent The three black-haired angels that live in my house
 my life is about finding time to dream
 my card is American Express



M. Night Shyamalan

My Life MyCard

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Harper and Charest have cooked up a plan. Now we get to see it.



PAUL WELLS

The Quebec election campaign now underway—at least, we expected it to be underway by now—hasn't yet started to press on Tuesday will arrive a lot of questions, so big elections often do. Perhaps the most elusive is just what have the place Harper and Jean Charest are talking about all this time?

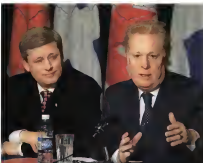
Last June 28, to pick one date among many, the Prime Minister was in Quebec City with his cabinet for a full-day meeting. The next day he was scheduled to attend a picnic in the Bonaventure hills of his protesting young minister, Martin DesRoches. But early on, to reporters who were following him, Harper said: "I'm not here on the evening after the cabinet retreat and meet privately with Jean Charest."

When we found out about it, so do we, later, we shrugged.

Harper has met more frequently with Charest than with any other premier, and more than any Canadian prime minister has met with any Quebec premier, at the very least, since Lester Pearson and Jean Lesage in the 1960s. They're being shown up by both sides to their respective press corps which is covering what's taking place, or to report on the outcome which is not taking place. But it's obvious that concerned that Harper and Charest, who are only a few seats apart in separate Reform and Progressive Conservative caucuses in the House of Commons from 1991 to 1995, have spent the past year building one of the most unusual and important relationships in all of Canadian politics.

Now the product of their handwork is about to face a pair of real tests. First is Charest's provincial election on March 26, and then the federal election that will follow in the summer of 2006.

It couldn't be more obvious that the two leaders are cooking up something. Federal Minister Martin DesRoches will bring down his second budget on March 13, a week before Quebec's vote. Harper has been telling people it will provide his solution to the "fiscal imbalance," the impression that Ottawa has more revenues than it needs, and the



HARPER HAS MET MORE WITH CHAREST THAN ANY OTHER PREMIER

provisions are enough of a slap in the face to believe either the timing or the content of the budget are accidental or the coincidence among Charest, Parti Québécois leader André Bouchard, and Action Démocratique du Québec leader Marie Desautels. Or that the outcome of the provincial election will be less than proved to what follows nationally.

While we wait to see how it all turns out, Canadians will be greatly aided by the new book from Chantal Hébert, the *Montreal Star* columnist who may be the country's most consistently insightful reader of federal politics, especially as it plays in Quebec. *French King: Stephen Harper's Road to the White House* (Knopf Canada, in bookstores Feb. 27) examines the roots and personal outcome of Harper's Quebec game.

"Stephen Harper owed much to Quebec in 2004 because he found a thread between his essentially right-wing agenda and the aspirations of Canada's least conservative province," Hébert writes. "This thread is the tension over respect for the areas of responsibility devolved to the provinces by the Constitution."

Perhaps the key word here is "tension." Like any relationship in its early stages, Harper's deal with Quebec has been marked by mood swings and discomfort by the self-will



DESPERATELY gets ready for a confrontation.

open question of whether it can possibly last. Hébert writes that Harper could never have got this far in Quebec if the Liberals had not spent years diligently gunning the ground they were laying a path for. Anyone in Canada who cares about politics will find *French King* a rewarding read. But for Liberals who still believe their drubbing in Quebec was due only to bad luck, a little poor core or the ugliness of the federal government's commission, Hébert's book offers a harsh but necessary corrective.

"By 2004, the Liberal Party of Canada had become an Ontario party in all but name," she writes, and by the summer of 2005, in the last four months of Paul Martin's short-lived government, "Martin's Quebec mission was at the end of its tether." Martin was warring with them and more issues of provincial jurisdiction with health care, infrastructure, social insurance and a national daycare system than he, because it offered less impressive standards of care outside Quebec than the Quebec government already provided inside the province, was "absorbed" in Quebec. Jean Lapierre, the broadcaster turned transport minister, had the backing of all Quebec ministers when he finally confronted Martin at a cabinet meeting, Hébert writes.

Lapierre complained that the federal government was consistently trampling the provinces' social budgets, while large pockets of its own fields were unattended. If he had known he would end up running provincial programs, Lapierre said, he would have sought a seat in the National Assembly. Martin's Ontario ministers pushed back—Lapierre said so the period when Ben Dyckson sold an Ontario newspaper—with a straight face, that Canadians "don't care which level of government provides a service." Martin, who had crashed in Quebec for 40 years but whose heart, in Hébert's view, never left the country,

before the 2006 election trying to look a little more. He avoided barging into conferences, like the appointment of Michael Ignatieff as Governor General, but might have left him looking like an outsider who didn't get Quebec. His dejected followers in a future of



HARPER takes a harsh look at the Liberals.

the Liberals, not the Bloc's strident agenda seems to be the casualty of indifference and Canada in general. And he has been from an uneasy but long-standing alliance of conservatives between Quebec and his own province. "Since the end of the Trade Act in 1995 and probably in reaction to it, I have seen Quebec and Alberta have always been at the same side of the House of Commons," Hébert writes.

Down to two seats in Alberta, and with Charest-Martin squabbling paralyzing the

case that goes against the gains of its collective conservatism, in exchange for a lot more poor social assistance."

But part of what makes the months ahead so exciting is that we can see justifying that whether Harper's Quebec plan might work, and what it is about. Already he has tried sharply in recent days, pushing up every chance to make Charest his personal champion and endorsing both Quebec voters and his own caucus that Martin DesRoches's ASQ is also a legitimate party to vote for. This doesn't look only like a shrewdness about Charest's chances. It's an expression of the Harper Conservatives' tight grip on the Quebec vote in the ADQs and Quebec City. And it reflects the Conservatives' fondest wish that the PQ might be able to produce a profoundly disappointing setback by Charest's disastrous team of conservatives. Already some observers in Quebec are wondering whether the PQ under Bouchard might be pushed aside in this election drive at any point since 2006.

So far, it's the question at the top of the column. Harper's very own, when Harper and Charest speak at the same time, the conversations keep turning back to a common interest: The Reform Progressive Conservative cabinet minister and the founding strategist of the Be Fortin party must surely get around to wondering whether the Liber

THE LIBERALS WERE SIDE-SWIPED BY THE EMERGING CONSERVATIVE COALITION WITH QUEBEC



STEPHAN DECH has inherited a Liberal party that has effectively become, under Martin, 'an Ontario party in all but name'.

ist industrial handout of southern Ontario, called with the Ontario.

The question that does not seem to have occurred to Martin and his Ontario advisors, Hébert writes, is the following: "If the most prominent Quebec members of the Liberal government had trouble with Martin's approach to federalism, who in Quebec would not?"

Quebecers might have stuck with the Liberals and the Bloc Québécois, favorite minor, if Harper had not devoted much of his effort



Harper and Charest at a press conference.

party in Quebec, the Liberals were side-swiped by the emerging Reform coalition because they had no intention where it was built. There are some old things Charest Hébert is more about, and she is certainly not more about the Harper Charest alliance's long-term viability. The summer was in Lebanon, the Kyoto debate and other issues have shown that Harper often wants to dig where most Quebecers would rather stay. "It would be delusional to believe that Quebec would for very long offer blind support for federal poli-



Harper and Charest at a press conference.

tics get to enjoy a reputation as Canada's party of national unity. Surely Harper and Charest want to talk about how they can destroy the central tenant of the Liberal myth. Kidding the good side of the Parti Québécois would be a good first step. Gaining after the Bloc would logically follow.

And what would they do after that? Well, that's between Harper and Charest. For now.

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.montrealstar.com/paulwells

GO ON, TAKE A STAND

It's possible to criticize China on human rights and do business with it

BY GRACIE GELMAN AND ANDREA MANOIR CAMPBELL — Stephen Harper has his critics, and many of them would presumably be pleased to teach him a lesson. But few firms cite as graphically about it as Neil White, a pioneer of Western banking in China, who currently advises BMO on its Asian operations. "We're not so much up, third-fiduciary and they're in the middle of Shanghai," says Tate, who spent 20 years in China. "Then he could see what's going on over there." Frustrated by what he saw as the PM's chronic proclivities toward an emerging Asian superpower, Tate believes the Conservative government's China policy is already costing Canadian companies money. And while his prescriptions may be unpopular, his words are not.

With each key note to the left of the Chinese, Harper takes another day on the back from his business. Like most Canadians, the country's corporate leaders apparently never forgive a Conservative putting human rights ahead of business interests, where China was concerned. And it's not, it seems, the case that a neutral national political order, allowing the Tories with the likes of Amnesty International and allowing pattern friends like the Canada-China Business Council. Now, both business and the Tories face some engaging questions: evidence on human rights shows really the price Canada must pay to get on the Chinese business deal.

Canada's dream of a Canadian world in China, like members of Black Dawn's, greatly exaggerated. If both possibilities hang over the Tory party, Harper doesn't seem especially worried. The Prime Minister announced his intention to make the plight of human rights a central theme of his campaign, but he also announced his intention to make the plight of human rights a central theme of his campaign.

Minister Canadian Cuyler brings the M by his own authority on occasions of terrorism. When the Prime Minister announced his intention to make the plight of human rights a central theme of his campaign, but he also announced his intention to make the plight of human rights a central theme of his campaign.



POLICE parade Chinese (one suspects Ottawa's Harper won't stand alone)



FOR A CERTAIN CADRE OF THIS COUNTRY'S BUSINESS ELITE, HARPER'S STAND IS WILFUL SABOTAGE

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For a certain cadre of the country's business elite, the whole thing is a wilful sabotage. The Canadian Council of Chief Executives, a gathering of leaders of the big business corporations, is demanding that the government change its stand, claiming

POLICE parade Chinese (one suspects Ottawa's Harper won't stand alone)

that Harper's methods are going to hurt rather than help the cause of human rights in China. "It is a belief that the way you influence human rights is not by calling people names or poking a stick in their eye," says Thomas D'Aquino, the organization's president. "It is a country like China is going to listen to us, it's important that we be seen as a trusted friend."

D'Aquino is careful to distinguish his organization from that of human rights activists.

"We're not saying change your China policy or we'll lose contacts." But there's no denying the vacuum he represents. Most of the companies whose chief executives are members of the CCEC's executive have significant operations in China, or plans that hang on the favor of Chinese officials. In that sense, Paul D'Aquino, his interests in a company that runs steel mills, power stations and numerous property developments in mainland China. Meanwhile, former CRO (Deputy CEO) of Massey also sits on the CCEC's executive, has purchased a stake in the country's business elite, the whole thing is a wilful sabotage.

But for all the clamor on the corporate side

of the debate, there is a growing sense in Ottawa that the Tories have found their stride. Two weeks ago, the government went back to the Cold War, unapologetically looking down the barrel of the whip in foreign policy. The Prime Minister was "personally disappointed," a highly placed official reported.

At the same time, the government had got on a case of the reaction to its policy from a Chinese perspective. While some voices questioned the government's actions, many applauded its resolve. Overall, it seemed to reflect the debate previously proleptizing an Canadian's friends. If these human rights activists' arbitrary arrest, detention, without charge, political imprisonment, the death penalty—surely, what's it for? If treating China's human rights will lead to progress in human rights, why have we not been so much more direct?

When it's said and done, what is the true risk for Canada in taking a stand?

The last one's easy to

to China has declined around one per cent, while foreign direct investment—a measure of Canada's economic stability in China—stands at a meagre \$1 billion, far below some possible causes like Australia.

In the meantime, China's human rights record remains as shabby as ever. Annual reports by Amnesty increase in a way of abuse, from the random detention of Uyghurs to the overuse of the death penalty (3,779 people executed in 2004; another 3,500 sentenced to death, some for non-violent crimes like counterfeit money). Provincial or national decisions remain a distant dream, while the government has cracked down on media and internet companies that fail to follow their restrictions.

All told, say observers, China is a capital long-standing firm in the theory that market liberalization will eventually lead to democratic reforms. "It's not an automatic thing,"

IF TREATING CHINA WITH KID GLOVES HELPS PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, WHY IS PROGRESS SO SLOW?

It's a view that the business types are bound to run into as they press their case against Harper. If there's little downward to spending out, and little upside to changing up, it's pretty hard to justify the latter. So while the likes of the CCEC may see the Conservatives as allies on their quest from transition to transition to productivity, China's interests are probably far in the distance.

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CHINA shows that market liberalization doesn't guarantee democratic reform

arrives. D'Aquino himself acknowledges a paucity of evidence: the Chinese will punish Canadian companies over Harper's stand by, say, closing firms the license necessary to open shops. And there is no shortage of countries that have closed such facilities, yet whose firms have been welcomed with open arms in Denmark, arguably the most vocal critic of Chinese human rights violations. Another is the United States, whose recognition and naming of Taiwan is an enormous sore point with the mainland.

As for lobbying business, well, there doesn't seem much to be said. Since the mid-1990s, when the Chinese government agreed to raise its human rights concerns behind closed doors, the proportion of Canadian exports that go

says Richard Kinosh, a political scientist at the University of Pittsburgh who has studied the issue. "It depends on a whole range of factors—the specifics of the regime, the institutions put in place." What's clear is that in that market can function very well without the full catalogue of freedoms we'd expect in the West.

Justin Trudeau vows to be misleading. "Expectations for me are either so incredibly high or so incredibly low that I can't live with it. I will be somewhere in the middle. I will be better than some people think and I won't be any better than they other people think. But I will spend my life living in that middle and doing what I can to make it a better place, trying to establish my own identity." Justin Trudeau was speaking in Beijing, Oct. 1, on whether he'll run for Parliament.



JUSTIN TRUDEAU VOWS TO BE MISLEADING

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Can flip may have settled a political rift

BY JOHN IVIMY — On the evening of Feb. 3, following a short but heated exchange, the governing body representing the rural municipality of Sherwood, Sask., collapsed. Having lost the vote in January—when a Saskatchewan court declared Robert Denzil's two-wife Norene-baby situation void insofar as to voter eligibility—baby issues—the summer council was dissolved and so who should take the lead. After 15 minutes of debate, one of the couples—James Farley, Rodney Brown and Lisa Farley—who, to deputy note, attempted to take over in the interim—walked out. “We had hoped to put flip a coin to decide between their gay and our gay and move on,” says councillor Kevin Elberic. His political rivals, however, had left before he could even suggest it.

The next day, Farley, Brown and Brown resigned because “it was clear we were struggling to govern as a council,” says Farley, a 35-year-old gay farmer. The provincial NDP government stepped in and, in a very rare political move, dissolved the three remaining councillors—Conny Wilton, Doug Blade and Elberic—so they could “turn it back to the electorates,” says Harry Van Malligen, the government relations minister. Van Malligen appointed Merrilee Rosenbaum, former city councillor and law clerk to the Saskatchewan court, to administer the vote—and organize an election, likely this spring. (All three former councillors can join the race.)

But Elberic, a 61-year-old accountant, argues that voters had their say in November, and a potential double-dip by the NDP's was in. “When a provincial government reneges your people’s word,” he asks, “what did you do wrong?” he says. “We did nothing wrong.”

While the leadership squabble triggered this current mess, the council—which represents about 1,100 people—has been deeply divided for some time, especially over the issue of land development. Such divisions are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. “There is a turbulent and painful in the RM of Sherwood,” says Elberic. ■

No more potty mouth in the halls of Charlottetown

BY DAVID KENNEDY — Last semester, Grade 12 English teacher Jackie Castelli was walloped through the halls of Colebrook Senior High School in Charlottetown when the head of a lamp-post “profanity” (every second or third word was the f-word), she says. “When I turned around, I was totally shocked.” The student wearing was the type Castelli thought “would never be caught dead” cursing with a teacher so near at hand. The two drew someone of many that led staff at Colebrook to start an anti-swearing drive, with consequences in the most severe consequences.

Principal Bob Andrews says the school is simply following a long tradition against verbal abuse, and what counts to abusive profanity, students have always been suspended (although there have been suspended in the last two weeks, compared with seven in all of last semester). But in cases of “censored” swearing, he says, students have been getting a criminal message. “Students would argue, ‘ah well, it’s okay in Mr. A’s class but it’s not okay in Mr. B’s.’” Still, the question of what constitutes casual profanity is somewhat murky. “We haven’t created a laundry list,” Andrews says. “But we added students to try to recognize that people’s tolerance may be different.”

Parent responses have been positive, according to Andrews. Some students have complained, saying swearing is part of their vernacular.



Students’ profanity means suspension, ‘off-limits’ can get counselling

castelli, and head to turn on and off. But the principal notes that many of them have been seen when they draw their name to return. And while the school reserves the right to order students “casual cursing” for counselling, or even to suspend them, so far all have been treated as a simple reminder. Castelli says virtually everyone she’s approached recently have been cooperative. “They’ll say, ‘oh yeah, sorry!’” ■

When child well-being becomes a battleground

BY PETER S. TAYLOR — A UNICEF report last week on child well-being in wealthy countries put Canada in an unimpressive 12th out of 21. But efforts to move our children up the ladder could well spark a debate over family values.

UNICEF used international surveys and studies to produce a set of rankings in six categories. The Netherlands came out on top, while Britain finished last. It’s not all bad news for Canada, though, despite the much worse score. We scored fairly high on income, and second on child abuse. Health care was highly ranked and the report was most children in wealthy nations “enjoy unprecedented levels of health and safety.” Another one: “Anxiety over the economy is reported on their own situation, which seems of little and precious use.”



More family time?

That leaves only two areas for improvement: family relationships and family behavior in the family system. “But we’re pretty indicator for Canada is the high percentage of single parent and step parent families. We’re also among the worst for drinking, sex and safety and drug use. The UNICEF study recently seems to suggest, in other words, that a middle-class life and the presence of two parents, biological parents are important indicators of child well-being.

Lisa Webb, UNICEF Canada’s director of education and advocacy, disagrees. She argues that the rise of one-parent families is not a negative, but simply a reality that demands more government support for single parents, including universal child care, more affordable housing and increased income supports. “It’s not about quality time,” she says. “It’s about quantity time with our kids.” ■

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MACLEAN'S MARCH 05 07



Reinventing your wheels

The non-polluting hydrogen car has finally arrived...almost.

BY STEVE MARCH - It may not have been the car of the future will glide silently over the road, running on an odorless gas, pumping nothing from its tailpipe except water pure enough to drink. But rarely you know that. The auto industry has been doing this mean for almost two decades: cars propelled by hydrogen fuel cells, the technology most likely to break the world's term seductiveness and the internal combustion engine.

Since 1993, the prophets of the hydrogen economy have declared again and again that the technology already exists. Which it does, sure. It's wonder, where's the car and why aren't still pumping unleaded? Well, the world isn't out there. After 15 years of raising announcements and endless calls, the race of the hydrogen fuel cell has finally arrived...sort of. Well, not exactly, but almost.

So, there are still some problems—let's call them "hurdles." But those can wait, because today, one crystal-clear day in northern California, the Honda Motor Company has assembled members of the world's press at the Laguna Seca racetrack to unveil the Honda FCX Concept. In 2008, it will become Honda's first fuel-cell-driven vehicle to hit the market, albeit in limited numbers and at a cost that makes it still more of a science experiment than a real commercial enterprise. But the point of the gathering isn't so qualitative, but to build a list of engineering. And what's first is

The use of a standard family sedan, the FCX has the sleek, shark-like look common to many concept cars—a look that design calls "distinctive," but which one writer compared to a suppository on wheels. It won't blow away speed demons (its top speed is just 160 km/h), but it does seem to highway speeds as well as its four cylinder sedan and has plenty of power for passing. The most surprising thing about the compact look of the car came just the highest high-tech item as you sit along at 160 km/h. For once you get used to the sight and sound, there's not much else to say, which is exactly the point. "People keep telling us that the most remarkable thing about it is how unremarkable it is, and we consider that a compliment," says Stephen Ellis, a Honda marketing exec and leader of fuel cell expert.

Everything that's truly impressive about the FCX is how it works, rather than what it does. And to fully appreciate how impressive

The FCX looks futuristic, but drives like any other sedan, and emits nothing but water



FCX's sleek display is, and battery power

The Honda FCX Concept (left, described by one journalist as "a suppository on wheels")

are, you have to know a little bit of history. Centuries ago, people knew hydrogen, hydrogen fuel cells are not a new technology. In 1838, chemists Ludwig Mond and Charles Lunge built the first device using oxygen and coal gas to produce power and water through



BMW has an engine that will burn gas (or H₂) without a piston. But fuel cells are weak and fragile and complicated to make, and by the end of the 19th century it was clear that the internal combustion engine—the gas-diesel engine, also called a combustion engine—was set to revolutionize every industry in the world.

Fuel-cell enthusiasts were confined to obscure laboratories and government programs. And in those laboratories, over the next half-century, scientists kept finding ways to make fuel cells more powerful and more stable. In the 1960s, the U.S. space agency NASA invested heavily in fuel-cell technology to replace bulky batteries on space missions, and in the 1970s using air pumps reinvigorated the world of fuel cell research.

One of the companies that grew out of that research was Verano's Ballard Power Systems, one of the pioneers of the modern push to commercialize the fuel cell. In 1993, Ballard and Daimler-Benz unveiled the first fuel cell-powered bus, and by 2000 there were about 10 operating worldwide. Finally in Europe. Over the past decade, 10 different automakers designed more than 125 differ-

ent hydrogen vehicle models, most of them running on Ballard fuel cells. It seemed the hydrogen economy was dawning. But no.

The vehicles never went into production because they were all underpowered compared to what a typical Western driver had come to expect. They couldn't travel more than 150 km before refueling. They wouldn't start in the deep cold of winter, and in the peak of a southern summer.

But engineers at Honda and elsewhere kept working, and the FCX is very much the result of their slow-but-steady progress. In the newest model, the fuel cell is 135 kg lighter and less than half the size of the 1999 model, but produces 67 per cent more power. The fifth-year battery, which stores the fuel cell when accelerating, is now 46 per cent lighter and 43 per cent smaller. The same goes for the new engine—smaller and lighter but more powerful. The car's average range before refueling has grown from 151 km to 440 km, and the company promises even steeper winter and summer.

All that is sure to be music to the ears of a public more interested than ever in finding an environmentally responsible ride. This year, another raft of gas/electric hybrids will hit the market: General Motors is building 150 Chevy Equinox SUVs with fuel-cell engines, and BMW has rolled out a hybrid power/hydrogen version of its 7-series luxury sedan. The last of the recent Detroit show was the Chevrolet Volt, a concept car that marries a battery-powered electric engine to a gas-powered generator. Given transportation is hot, and over the next few years, almost every major manufacturer is expected to step into the world of hydrogen cars. Which brings us to the "Honda."

It's not that Honda's vision of the future is all that different from the future as it is. The scope of the 1993 destruction of the Zepplin Hindenburg doesn't need any explanation of the public's imagination about using hydrogen as a mass-market fuel. Of course, consumers have gotten accustomed to the idea of pumping highly flammable gasoline into a tank that is little more than a large soap can. But hydrogen isn't comparable to gasoline and doesn't catch fire. The engineers working on fuel cells understand this better than most, and over the next decade, a great deal of effort will be spent desensitizing hydrogen, reassuring nervous buyers that the pressurized tanks sitting just beneath their back seats are far safer than a traditional gas tank. "You can't get atomically accurate," Ellis says. "You have to answer directly at them and help people understand."

But marketing may be the least of the problem. You know, the revised Honda design

before you're even considering the merits of a hydrogen alternative.



CHRYSLER'S Equinox is GM's slip into H₂

Mass production is a problem. Engineers admit making cells is 'astoundingly expensive.'

ically every part for Honda's fuel cells is custom made and fabricated out of extremely expensive materials. The process is delicate and labor-intensive—nothing like pumping our oxygen for Honda Civic. "I can't give you specific details," the granddaddy Karl says through a translator, as he racks back and forth on his heels in the California sunshine. "But it is astoundingly expensive. We don't have the technology to make fuel cells in mass volume yet. It takes a lot of manpower and time. It's absolutely cost and make, make a lot of that," he says, "precisely speaking, no cars."

Honda and the rest of the auto industry is now working hard only to make the problem of mass production and cost, exceeding manufacturing parties and parts suppliers to keep up their own efforts, or hopes of doing production costs down. But realistically, that kind of radical change takes time, probably until 2010 before any truly mass market



Early models were merely science projects

yellow happens. And when that day comes, it won't come cheap. The FCX, for example, is estimated to be a luxury automobile, to be sold in the same price category as an Audi R8—roughly \$65,000. Chances are you're going to buy at least one more conventional

car before you're even considering the merits of a hydrogen alternative.

If you're lucky enough to persuade Honda to sell you one of their hydrogen cars today, you'll have a car that costs more than a full-size truck to develop and build. There's no word on when the few cars released in 2008 might actually sell. And then you'd have to figure out where to fill it up—which remains perhaps the biggest thing holding back the hydrogen future. There are only a handful of publicly accessible hydrogen fueling stations, scattered across North America. In 2003, the White House announced \$200 million in funding for a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, aimed at assisting the development of infrastructure. But, as Karl acknowledges, after he's taken one step forward, he's taken one step back.

attracting interest in building refueling stations for cars that aren't yet on the road, and it's hard to produce a mass-market automobile when the entire world, from the corner filling station to your local mechanic, is geared toward gasoline-powered vehicles.

Mark Hines, a professor at the University of California, Davis, has spent much of his academic career studying the economics of hydrogen transportation. The bottom line is his expensive but not impossible. "The fact that they've made an investment in vehicle performance is impressive, but cost [refueling] also has to be reduced and that can only happen through mass production," he says. "So someone has to be paid down for consumer conversion, then mass production of vehicles can ramp up, but the two basically have to happen at the same time for the economics to play out."

That, he says, is going to require several years from automakers, energy companies and governments, all working in partnership, all taking a bit of a loss of cash that hydrogen really is the best bet for the future. And how much will it cost? Perhaps as much as another \$250 billion to make hydrogen available for sale at \$10,000 filling stations across the U.S. Honda and others have been trying to develop their own solutions—ideas like solar-powered hydrogen generators, and a compact on-board refueling system that uses natural gas to produce heat and electricity for the drive, while generating hydrogen to run your car.

It all sounds excellent, and a long way from reality. Which isn't pretty in our description of the hydrogen economy. The car works. And that is a phenomenal achievement. It's everything else that doesn't that they're working on. ■

WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S HOT...



IT'S BIG IN JAPAN

Bulk Toyota took Chevy, as they don't exactly roll off the tongue, but Toyota has gone bigger than ever (and straight after Ford and Chevy) with its half-ton, full-size pickup, the Tundra CrewMax, built in San Antonio, Texas, for authenticity. With a 4.7-liter V-8 and enough torque to tow anything short of a double ship, it even has a navigation screen connected to an LCD screen on the dash to help hook up to a trailer. The lucrative truck market is the one area in which Toyota still has for behind the competition: An truck owner ready to give an "import" a chance?



IT'S A CAR. IT'S AN SUV. IT'S A...

Somewhere in between the big engines and the few fuel was a question of bigger-than-a-truck build, smaller than a truck's maneuverability, built for young families who want to go to the grocery store without stopping for gas. One of the sleekest in the 2009 Nissan Xterra, built in the Mexico. According to Nissan's clever VP of sales and marketing David Friedman, "The Xterra has performance and practicality, aggressive design and a lot of fun." It also has that extra room, intended to make sure parents feel they still have "the" drive when the baby is in the back.



FUN IN A FORD

Bill Gates and Ford cooked up Sync, a wireless onboard computer system for 12 2009 models, including the Focus. It integrates calendars, MP3 players and other storage devices so car owners no drivers can operate the whole system by voice. Talk to the car, talk on the phone and listen to music. Smart phones with Web access can also play live radio from the Net. Text messages are read back in Sync's efficient "Yessie" voice that says why Ford is the best-looking. Payless for the system will take about \$1,500/\$2,000. Paying attention to the road? Overlooked.

BY BARBARA RICHMOND • It was like watching Godzilla smother butterflies at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit last month. In the motorcade camp, roaring their louds—if not their last—were the new Dodge Viper SRT10 (a V-10, 8.4 liter that does 0-60 mph in under four seconds), Chevy's 505-hp, seven-liter Corvette Z06, and Ford's new beast, the 400-hp interceptor concept, which was so loud it obliterated a Hyundai press conference on the floor of the Cobo Center. Lexus presented the 2008 LS-F five-liter V-8, and its exec talked about "howling air," while Volkswagen literally flagged the virtues of the 300-hp GTI MK-V with a huge "Smile! Yes! If you got 'em" banner. On the green side, pretending to save the world seemed easy, was a parade of eco-friendly models that may run on ethanol, bio-diesel, hydrogen, electricity, or the sun, the moon and the stars. Over at BMW, signage for the Hydrogen 7 pretty much summed up the current situation: "Because the infrastructure for refueling the Hydrogen 7 is not yet a reality, the V-12 engine also runs on gas."



WHAT A CONCEPT

Concepts had class and look appeal. Mercedes-Benz featured back to the days of Daimlerbros with its jaw-dropping four-door convertible, the Green Drive. Audi took a substantial front engine sports car. Honda showed the four-door concept with a massive rear wing, while GM had a sleek, futuristic concept in deep purple, and Nissan showed a mid-looking crossover called the Bevel (above) with a front passenger seat that folds flat and a hatch in the back for the loading dog. Intel, said Nissan design manager John Capri, is like a new power tool—it's just for now.



HONK IF YOU LOVE DAVID SUZUKI

Two people in the press fold down and were nearly trampled in the rush to the stage after Bill Lutz, General Motors' vice chairman of global product development, introduced the handsome Civic Hybrid. The five-passenger concept car is an electric hybrid, meaning it has a small gasoline engine that powers a generator, which, in turn, charges a lithium-ion battery. No segment of the Volt power Lutz's statement that "environmentally conscious cars can look good." But there are still big questions about the Volt ever making it to market.



SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL

Besides the barely street legal Viper and the Volvo, a scintillating V-8 convertible. Camaro concept in Hopper Orange (above) lit up a pre-show party and, at Cobo, on the last press day, a new mid-size V-8 Acura took the stage around a track on top of the stadium and Dodge's NASCAR driver Kurt Busch, Elton Siler and Juan Pablo Montoya. The little press clapped and cheered and seemed to breathe a sigh of relief. Most old-time car lovers were bored by all the environmental hoopla. Sure, muscle may be going out of style, but in Detroit, it's still king of the road.



CUTE AND CONVERTIBLE

Mini debuts a special-edition convertible design package called the Silverdale, available on the Cooper and the Cooper S. It comes in stylish colors—reminding said Sporting Silver Metallic, for example—but its best feature is its luxurious interior in light brown leather, plus a silver A-Trip case in the front. Cooper S will come with its 160-hp, urban drive and get to join the club once more. The Silverdale is meant for cruising and then parking in tiny spots on upscale streets where security can afford it.



AFFORDABLE LUXURY

If people still aspire to own a Cadillac, as its GM exec Taylor says, the newly new CTS may be the last they pick. Peter Lantz, head of the CTS interior design team, says its luxury is defined by thinking Coach or even Prada. That may be a leap, but the car is graceful, and at about \$32,000, arguably affordable. At Hyundai, the new upscale Veloster (above) offers wireless headlights, dual chrome exhaust, a 3.8-liter dual overhead cam V-6 and satellite radio—all for \$28,300/\$30,300. Still, some critics claim Hyundai has yet to live down its rep for poor quality cars.



SAVING THE MINIVAN

While Ford and GM quit trying, General Motors is reinventing its full-size minivan "family room on wheels," with more torque, power windows and dual DVD systems on its Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town and Country. Both have a shorter, cooler design that eliminates what one group designer calls "the judge factor." The Town and Country has new "Silver" Go seating that allows second-row passengers to turn around and talk to the people sitting in row three, or slide down to sit on the stowable table while mom or pop drives.



A DRAGON ON WHEELS

The Chinese are coming. General Motors, the one-time defense company from Hesse province, introduced its new and sleek, wearing camouflage in the basement of the Cobo Center. Its chairman Li Xiaohu followed through a short speech and showed a long film capturing the values of his product and referring to the human-born Mao Zedong as "the Chinese great leader." The press was fairly polite, but Changling already experts in Europe, Russia, Africa and South America. With technology from Hubei, North America may not be for him.

BOTTOM: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; TOP: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; TOP: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES; TOP: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

TOP 10 ANALYSTS' PICKS



1. Honda Accord concept The eighth generation Accord (above) will turn old reliable into "Hello, beautiful!" when it's produced true-to-form in a sedan and a coupe this fall. "A leap forward," says one analyst.

2. Chevy Malibu Well-designed, with an interior buyers can envision in shades of brown or gray cloth or Moroccan leather. Analysts agree GM finally got it right.

3. GMC Acadia GM delivers an attractive mid-size crossover in the footsteps of its best-seller, the Pontiac Aztek.

4. Chrysler Town and Country Sets the gold standard in minivans and could be the beleaguered company's ace in the hole.

5. Cadillac Escalade ESV The new king of Meg, replacing the past's Hummer H2, comes with an optional second- and third-row DVD system so that while one can be entertained between chafes.

6. Lincoln MKS It's a concept, but one analyst says it marks a new direction and looks much sharper than the Ford 350/Thurs. Because we can't see the way to romance sedan and Ford can use the benefits.

7. Mercedes Silvertec diesel Efficient, with emissions control systems that reduce nitrogen oxides. Analysts forecast that the new environmentally friendly diesel will account for more than 45 per cent of the car market in North America by 2007.

8. Fiat Versa. Terra. Sub-compact cars appeal in Canada—40 per cent of buyers want the small, fuel-efficient subcompact. You too, also has a new Canada in the world.

9. Toyota Camry hybrid Honda, GM, Ford and Chrysler all have 'em, but this one is best. Last November alone, Toyota sold 1,100 of them in the U.S., compared to 311 Honda Accord hybrids.

10. The Nissan Rogue Crossovers, with their spunky looks, good handling and just-right capacity, are the hottest segment of the moment. Canadians will also go for the Edge from Ford. —Barbara Hylton



LECLERC's dealership sold 4,036 cars last year, more than any other Mazda dealer in the world

A giant among car salesmen

Denis Leclerc sold his first car at age 11. Now he's king of the dealers.

BY JASON CROW • When Denis Leclerc was 11 years old, he was already obsessed with cars. He pulled red rubber car brochures to books. And he had already found himself a job as a car washer at a used car lot in Marysville, where he memorized the model and price of every car on the lot.

While at the dealership, he'd sometimes be left alone in the office while the assistant sales staff would go out for lunch. One day while he was standing guard at the shop during the noon hour, a man came in to inquire about a Ford Galaxie 500 that was for sale. With nobody else to assist the customer, the kid stepped up, grabbed the dealer plates, led the office and accompanied the man on a test drive—even though it would be five years before he would get his licence. While on the road, Leclerc answered questions about the condition of the car and discussed the price. They reached a deal at \$2,100, and by the time the adults came back from lunch, Leclerc had sold his first car. "I was ahead of my time," he laughs as he recalls the story. "I just did it like the big man."

Leclerc never wavered in his drive to become a top car salesman: he dropped out of high school at 15 to sell cars at a used lot. Four years later, he became a salesman "in the big

league" at a Chrysler dealership in Ottawa. At 22, he ventured out on his own in the used car business, until 1996. For the past 10 years, the St. Leonard, Que., native has been owner and operator of Alfa Mazda La Grosse, a main Montreal dealership that he's turned into the largest and most successful Mazda dealer in the world—a fact confirmed by the thousands of cars on the floor of his dark, hard, a gift from Mazda to commemorate his reign as the company's sales champion.

Situated 10 km northwest of Montreal in the small town of Montcalm, the Alfa dealership and service centre runs almost out of nowhere, nestled among a few industrial buildings on a small road that ends where the earth is flat. The newly expanded facility is 7½ times the size of a typical Wal-Mart. Within the 114,000-sq. foot space is a 100 car show room and a repair garage that can handle as many as 300 cars at a time, with 45 garage doors and 10 hydraulic lifts. There's also a café and salon for customers who want a snack or to get their hair done while waiting for an oil change. "There's a magic when you come in here. I think it's special," Leclerc says, pausing before adding Mazda's ubiquitous slogan, "You feel the 'zoom zoom'."

Leclerc has the sales to back up his boasts. Last year, he sold 4,036 cars, more than any other Mazda dealer in the world, and more than double the next largest Montrealer in Canada. Leclerc's dealership is responsible for 60 per cent of all Mazda sales in Canada. (The

The North will lead the country in economic growth in the next ten years. Right now, there is a huge opportunity for business people with vision.



LOOK UP

BUSINESS IS HEADING NORTH

Investors, entrepreneurs, professionals, skilled trades, knowledge workers – look up North! Look up and discover a booming economy, a welcoming community, a developed infrastructure and an unbeatable way of life. Look up to Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for opportunities you won't find anywhere else.



FLY UP

Our international airports in the territorial capitals – Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – welcome over 1,000 travellers a day from southern Canada. Air North, Canadian North, First Air, Air Canada and Calm Air provide direct passenger and cargo flights to our cities from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Montreal.

Once you arrive, the majority of Northwest Territories communities, and all Yukon and Nunavut communities are accessible by air.

More than 100 airports across the North connect business year-round.

DRIVE UP

More than 7,000 kilometres of all-weather public roads and thousands of kilometres of public and private winter roads connect most communities in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Major highways link industry and travellers to central and southern Alberta and B.C., as well as Alaska. Key roads also connect Yukon and the Northwest

Territories, both in the north and south. Nunavut road links to the south are in development, and every community is accessible by air and water.

SAIL UP

Ships and barges play a major role in moving goods and natural resources throughout the North and to markets around the world.

Ships and barges handle over 95% of freight in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

More than 130 flights a week connect to southern cities.

Yukon has easy access to two ice-free Alaskan ports. The Northwest Territories' scheduled marine service extends over 5,000 kilometres, linking the entire Mackenzie River and western Arctic Ocean to Canada's rail and highway system. Nunavut Sealink and Supply Incorporated (NSI) is one of several companies that provide door-to-door transportation and supply services to communities in Nunavut. Freight also moves by rail from the Pacific port of Prince Rupert to Hay River in the Northwest Territories.

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LOOK UP

Northern businesses and business people have the same needs as any others – modern communications, dependable infrastructure, readily available support services and strong communities. We have them all.

TO COMMUNICATE

Northwest delivers a broad range of telecommunications solutions across the North, including local telephone service, cellular, long distance communications by microwave radio, fibre optic cable and satellite, and advanced data communications, including high-speed Internet. On a regional and local level, dozens of private sector companies are constantly expanding the available choices by working with public organizations in each territory, such as the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation. Reliable, affordable access to communications is a reality of life throughout the North.

TO DO BUSINESS

Keeping a business going takes everything from a reliable source of power to a reliable source of paper clips. It's no different in the North. Well-established business support services provide information technology solutions, logistical support and marketing services to meet all the needs of daily business. Office space and conference and meeting facilities are readily available. And a well-educated, young workforce welcomes new opportunities and challenges.

TO LIVE LIFE

We take great pride in the Northern sense of community. Our public services reflect that. Government-funded health care is available at regional hospitals in our cities and in health centres in most communities. Our schools and colleges offer a wide range of educational opportunities. And our community centres, arenas and sports facilities bring neighbours together every day.

The private sector is just as strong. Major retailers such as Canadian Tire and Wal-Mart in Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and a multitude of other merchants across the North, provide all the goods and services everyone needs.

TO LIVE IT UP

Everything that makes the North such a popular tourist destination also makes it an extraordinary place to live. There are no smog alerts here. The water sparkles. And the awe-inspiring scenery starts right outside your door. Outdoor activities are part of our way of life, but we know how to entertain ourselves indoors as well. Music festivals, theatre groups and galleries assure you are involved in the North's rich tradition of art and culture.

Broadband services are available in 90% of Northern communities.

There is no PST in any of the territories.



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More than \$1.4 billion was spent on Northern resource exploration and development in 2006

The North has the youngest workforce in Canada



Business opportunities are everywhere in Canada's North. The opportunity to invest in the resource industry and the hundreds of companies that make exploration and development possible. The opportunity to create innovative products and services for the North and the world. The opportunity to take your career to a new level in a welcoming business community.

TO INVEST

Large-scale development of our vast mineral, oil, gas and marine resources will always be a mainstay of the North's economy. Resource developers and the many businesses that support them are a focus for the territorial governments and aboriginal development corporations. Investors are welcomed and assured of long-term stability.

Expected investment in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will reach a new record high this year, exceeding \$2 billion, representing approximately \$40,000 for every man, woman and child in these territories. Most of this investment will be in diamond mine development; however, we are currently seeing renewed interest in gold and base metal development.

TO INNOVATE

Where innovation was once a necessity for survival, it is now a way of life. Northern innovators range from new mining technology to cold climate building processes and products, to consumer goods made with unique northern ingredients and designs. These innovations not only meet the needs of the North, but are exported around the world.

Kiwanis Dilling's low environmental impact, low-cost, high-productivity diamond drilling equipment was developed for the North and is now being used in Central and South America, the Caribbean and Asia. All the equipment fits in the cargo hold of a conventional aircraft and can be carried to exploration sites in a single five-ton truck.

TO SUCCEED

The North welcomes those with talent and a desire to excel. As an entrepreneur, professional, skilled trade or knowledge worker, you'll find life-changing opportunities and a remarkable lifestyle. In every business sector from IT to accounting, retail to engineering, telecommunications to transportation, the skills and knowledge you bring will be recognized and rewarded.

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UNTAMED. UNSPOILED. UNDISCOVERED.

Nunavut means "our land", and being out on the land is what the Nunavut experience is all about.

Share the music, stories, art and traditions in an Inuit community. See polar bears roam the ice floes and make their thunder across the tundra. Kayak where whales play and walrus back on the Arctic shoreline. Challenge yourself rock climbing and hiking. Canoe the great rivers of the central Arctic. Travel with your own dog team across the sea ice with a licensed Inuit guide. Nunavut has something for everyone.

TAKE NATURE IN

Almost any excursion – by boat, foot, canoe, kayak, dog sled or snowmobile – will be an opportunity to see the magnificent creatures that make Nunavut their home. Arctic wolves and bears, peregrine falcons and snow geese, polar bears and narwhals, vast herds of caribou and the Arctic's true Ice Age relic – the muskox – abound.

Experienced outfitters and guides offer a wide variety of wildlife tours, from day trips to private viewings that last as long as you like. Spend a week or more in one of our natural lodges, located in remote areas where land and marine animals gather. Or relax at a full service hotel or bed and breakfast where a fine meal completes a perfect day of walking the flowing tundra.

HOW TO GET HERE

Nunavut is only three hours away from major city airports. Fly from Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, or Montreal on Canadian North, First Air or Air Canada.

TAKE NATURE ON

For the outdoor adventurer, Nunavut's spectacular scenery promises an unforgettable experience. From Ellesmere Island to the towering face of Mount Thor, Nunavut offers a wide variety of ice, mountains and rock climbing, and challenging hikes that rival any place in the world. Canoeing our magnificent rivers is still one of the greatest adventures Canada has to offer. Baffle the current of the Thelon, Kazan, Coppermine and Dubawnt rivers as you immerse yourself in the vastness of the barrenlands.

DISCOVER INUIT CULTURE

Inuit culture has flourished in Nunavut for more than 5,000 years. This history is captured in story and song through countless generations. The Inuit and Inuktitut stories vibrant. People are always willing to share their stories with you.

Inuit art is prized around the world, but there is no better place to see and collect it than here. You can buy directly from the artists, or from galleries for an Inuit stone carvings and contemporary artistic expressions in clothing, jewellery, basketwork, prints and tapestry.

COME EXPLORE "OUR LAND"

To Untamed, Unspoiled, Undiscovered, let us add one more: Unforgettable. An extraordinary adventure awaits you in Nunavut. Start yours soon.

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SPECTACULAR

Reawaken your sense of wonder in a pristine, vibrant world. Rejuvenate your body and your spirit. Escape to the Northwest Territories.

WORLD-FAMOUS NORTHERN LIGHTS

Almost 250 nights a year, our northern lights will delight your senses with the most intense display anywhere in the world. Stay in a welcoming hotel or cozy bed and breakfast with guided tours to the best viewing locations. Or choose a wilderness winter lodge where a hot tub under the northern lights is just one of the many amenities.

AWE-INSPIRING NORTHERN NATURAL BEAUTY

Glorious Nahanni National Park is one of life's greatest experiences. This World Heritage Site is a truly joined-for-Canada's deepest canyons and roaring Virginia Falls twice as high as Niagara. The Canol Heritage Trail is an adventure through broad river plains, towering mountains and the extraordinary Mackenzie Mountain Scenery. Farther north, two wilderness parks bring you the thrill of the caribou migration and the fascinating world of muskox. There are also opportunities for wildlife viewing almost everywhere in the Northwest Territories, and our experienced guides and outfitters can take you to all the best places.

PRISTINE WATERS

Whether you're looking for serenity or an exhilarating challenge, you'll find it on the waters of the Northwest Territories. Cruise the magnificent Mackenzie River to one of the largest river deltas in the world. Charter a boat to see the towering cliffs and brilliant birds on Great Slave Lake. Or take a guided river trip through breathtaking canyons and world-class rapids. And whenever you are, don't forget to drop a line. Trophy lake trout, northern pike and arctic grayling are always waiting.

WELCOMING SPIRIT

It's an aboriginal tradition to celebrate the seasons and today, dozens of festivals bring everyone together to enjoy northern art, food, music, dance, and traditional games and contests. You can also discover the aboriginal spirit and life through a unique cultural tour with a Dene, Métis or Inuvialut family, or a community tour with an aboriginal guide.

SENSATIONAL DRIVES

By car, RV or bus, every turn in the road is likely to present you with a heart-stopping vista, magnificent waterfall, or otherwise lifetime wildlife experience. And for the drive of a lifetime, follow the Dempster Highway across the Arctic Circle to Inuvik in the Mackenzie River Delta.

A SPECTACULAR TIME

Discover the land that leaves you refreshed, restored and rejuvenated. Escape to the Northwest Territories.

LARGER THAN LIFE

Yukon is the land of larger-than-life experiences. A realm of wide open spaces and majestic beauty. Gaze up at the magical Northern Lights in winter and bathe in the warmth of the Midnight Sun in summer. See Canada's tallest mountain and hike the world's largest non-polar ice field. Experience fine dining, invigorating nightlife and hundreds of kilometres of hiking and biking trails in the capital city of Whitehorse, Canada's wilderness city. Drive the legendary Alasca Highway and stop by the many information and interpretive centres. Much a dog sled through unspoiled wilderness and dance the night away at the Dawson City Music Festival. No matter what the season, you can be sure your Yukon experience will be larger than life.

BE AMAZED

From emerald lakes and deep forests to high alpine meadows and wide open tundra, Yukon's scenic beauty is unparalleled. Hike the trails of the stunning Kluene National Park and Reserve, home to Canada's tallest mountain. Take an exhilarating ziplining trip along the Tahltan or Alsek Rivers as they wind through their wilderness parks.

Many of our most majestic areas are accessible by road. Take the Dempster Highway across Arctic tundra. Follow the Gold Rush on the Klondike Highway. Or take the Canol Highway through pristine wilderness.

And whenever you go you can't help but discover our incredible wildlife. From more than 250 species of birds to the largest caribou herd in North America, wildlife is a Yukon specialty. We also have more than 200 species of wildflowers including half a dozen species of wild orchids.

PAST AND PRESENT

The lure of gold drew prospectors during the Gold Rush just as the love of those days draws visitors today. Hike the Chilkoot Trail in the footsteps of all those who dreamed of striking it rich. Explore historic Dawson City where the spirit of the Klondike lives on.

It's not just about gold. Yukon has a wealth of cultural activities to experience. In addition to more than 2,500 historic sites, we have a dynamic contemporary arts scene. Take your pick from the past or the present. Embark on a prehistoric journey of the Beringia Interpretive Centre, experience one of our many museums and interpretive centres or time your visit to take in one of our many music and arts festivals.

SHARE OUR FIRST NATIONS CULTURE

There are 14 distinct First Nations in Yukon, all possessing a strong spirituality centred on an ancient oral tradition and a respect for the land and the forces of nature. You can learn from this history by visiting our many cultural centres, hiking trails traditionally used by First Nations people and listening in awe as elders share their stories.

EXPECT TO MAKE FRIENDS

Larger than life also describes the welcoming personality of Yukonians. If you've read Robert W. Service's Jack London and Pierre Berton, you have a pretty good idea of what to expect. If not, you've got a lot to look forward to. Whatever you go, you'll be sure to find great conversation, helpful advice and the warmest welcome in the world.

HOW TO GET HERE

There are direct flights from Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Take one of the major highways that connect us to southern Alberta, Alaska and B.C. Or arrive by cruise ship in the summer or ferry year-round from the Alaskan ports of Haines and Skagway.

HOW TO GET HERE

Air service to the Northwest Territories is fast and frequent, with easy connections from major cities across North America. Or drive up, enjoying the scenic highways that link the NWT to the rest of Canada.

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For natural wonders, vibrant culture, and a vacation experience that will light you up forever, there's only one way to look



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YUKON
LARGER THAN LIFE



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOBBER JACOBSON

other 164 Mazda dealers in Canada will average 468 cars per year.) His tale is even more impressive considering that he's selling the seventh-largest brand in the country.

Mazda makes up just five per cent of the Canadian auto market, and logs far behind the auto giant GM, Ford, Chrysler and Toyota, which account for 46 per cent of Canadian car sales and have much larger national advertising campaigns. To put Leclerc's sales performance in context, consider that Ford's top-selling Canadian dealership was Freedom Ford in Edmonton, which sold more than 2,600 units last year. About 80 per cent of Freedom's sales were in what the industry calls fleet sales, supplying vehicles to construction companies, government agencies, police forces and other clients that buy hundreds of cars at a time at a heavily discounted price. But Albi has virtually no fleet sales. In other words, Albi is winning the sales race one car at a time and pocketing a bigger profit while doing so.

Like any car salesman, Leclerc gives most of the credit to the product he has to sell. The compact Mazda3 continues to be wildly popular and accounts for half of his sales. He's also very aggressive with his advertising budget, spending about 2.5 million a year in newspaper ads. And he prides himself on maintaining high customer satisfaction, with half of his customers being referrals from previous clients.

But Leclerc has also succeeded because he's been adapting to new times. The business has changed dramatically over the past decade, with many complaining of growing competition and thinning profit margins. Peter Salinas, editor of the trade magazine Dealer Business Journal in Toronto, B.C., says it's becoming a matter of survival for sales to get bigger. "It's getting very difficult for brick dealers to stay in existence," he says. "If you're getting bigger, you make economies of scale. The cost per mile goes down compared to smaller areas." He adds, "A 100 car show room is big. But it's an especially good move in Montreal. It means you can look at a lot of cars in the winter with your coat off."

Perhaps the most difficult adaptation has been the change in the dynamic of the relationship between salesmen and customer. Gone are the days of the amiable salesman who would push a truck over the hood up with endless options, or an unsympathetic customer to pocket a sizable profit. Now customers come armed with Internet research, often knowing exactly what car they want to buy and what price before they even step in the door. "You can't fool them anymore. The old-style salesman is over," admits Leclerc, who often forgoes the traditional suit and tie for the more casual look of untucked short-sleeved

shorts. "If someone there used to be a suggestion that the salesman is out to screw you and sure, it happened. But now, we have to be nice. When you buy a car, everybody assumes they'll get screwed." So, he's trained his sales staff to adopt a sales-leader approach and some way to connect to a cynical and wary customer, and Genevieve Lapierre, Leclerc's best-selling person on his floor, is the antithesis of the fast talking, musical word dealer. An attractive blonde with a gentle voice and a blushing demeanour, the 30-year-old is an

new in the Mazda family, and eschews a lot of their over-the-top sales approach. It's all part of Leclerc's master plan for getting customers to keep buying at Albi and servicing their cars there again and again.

Of course, not everyone's a fan of the big-brother concept, and some bristle at Albi's sales tactics. "I can't see myself relying on the sales approach at Albi Mazda without raising the salesman's head into his desk drawer and doing it on his own damn terms," writes one car owner on www.albi.com. "Full on of salesmen who have class and can give a final price when you ask for it." Albi's comprehensive aren't obliging at the

Showrooms like Leclerc's, bigger than a Wal-Mart, could be the future of the business



CAR SHOPPERS can get some lunch and a latte, while checking out the latest models

on his manager who sold 120 cars last year. "I'm in the business," Denis tells us to his own, the car, "I know your customer. Always listen. You have to find that way to talk to them, to find out what they want."

Now, with the Vancouver, service centre, Leclerc expects sales to keep soaring. The garage and the showroom are part of the same business model. Leclerc's garage is as big as it promises fast and immediate service so wait times are reduced. Meanwhile, the sales and call are there so that the experience of waiting for your car isn't as painful as it typically has been in the past. And since customers are more likely to linger while their cars are changed, they'll likely wander over to the showroom to take a look at what's

right of their huge opponent. "We do first," trumpets Leclerc, and decisively owner in Massachusetts whose dealerships are in cars. "Our sales have increased, too. They don't come in."

But ask Leclerc about his competition, and he gives a blank stare as if he doesn't know the definition of the word. He turns from his desk to ask his sales manager who they think Albi's rivals are, and the whole room erupts in laughter. "I don't want to look arrogant, but, you know, we don't think about anybody outside of here," Leclerc says. It has both a bewilderment that he's certain will continue to grow. Leclerc's goal, cracking the five-figure mark. "I want to sell 30,000 cars in a year. After I do that, I'll quit and go golfing." ■

EMPLOYEE
of the
WEEK

A FAILURE TO BOND WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND

A dog-grooming salon in Washington State has closed after one of its employees tried to punch a bit of bad work. When customer Anni Shumfless tried to wash what she thought was dirt off of her dog Jemimah's eye, the ear fell off. Police say an unidentified groomer accidentally severed Jemimah's ear, then threatened it with glue. Said Det. Ed Trayer of City Harbor, "Once they tried to hide it and glue the ear back on, that's not good for the dog."

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOBBER JACOBSON

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From the Peg, to Krypton, to the Academy Awards

BY JOHN INTISO • For Chris Bond, a fan of the Superman franchise since he was a kid, creating Kryptonite for the most recent big screen incarnation was a pretty cool gig—and one that took him and a team of special effects experts from Winnipeg's Frontier Films months to perfect. "We remained as true as possible to the original film," says Bond, the company's 35-year-old president. The strategy paid off: Frontier's 2006 post-production work—including the death scene crystal that renders Superman powerless—helped to earn Superman Returns a nomination for



DEADLY legible: the glowing of Frontier Films.

Visual Effects at this weekend's Academy Awards (New day, another Frontier Films project, also earned a nod in the category). Not bad for a company that started a decade ago with two men in a tiny one-room office.

Bell Boulevard in the Peg (because it's cheaper) "we really like it here," says Chris Bond, a former entertainment lawyer who joined the company as CEO and executive producer in 2003. Frontier Films now has 315 employees and offices in Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles and Sydney. Hollywood's biggest film houses use Frontier's visual effects and animation. And since their blockbuster break—an explosive 42-second dog contest scene in John Turturro's 2003 film Two Brothers—annual revenue has tripled from \$200,000 to more than \$70 million.

But while having two Oscar-nominated films guarantees a boost for business, it doesn't get the Winnipeg boys as rich as the Kryptonite on Sunday night (only the big guys are invited). "I might be there," says Bond, "if someone's dare doesn't show up." Or, he could always slip Superman a bit of the green stuff. ■

'It did well last year'—how to lose money in mutual funds

BY CATHY ORR • The disclaimer on mutual fund ads that "past performance is no guarantee of future results" may be more than just legalese. A new study by Standard & Poor's suggests that mutual funds don't ever perform consistently good results. And if a fund is hot, be cautious because odds are it's probably going to cool off before long, as S&P's 2006 Mutual Fund Performance Performance Scorecard shows.

Over the last five years, only three per cent of funds that invest in large companies, and 3.8 per cent of funds that invest in mid size firms, maintained their place in the top quartile of the best performing funds, new equity funds stayed on top during that same period. "These low counts are a sobering reminder about the volatility of the often-hot fund decisions," concludes S&P. "Past performance cannot be the sole or the most important criteria in fund selection."

Stacey Abbott, president of FundScope Ltd., a research company in Richmond Hill, Ont., agrees and recommends other considerations. Such as how volatile are the returns? How does the fund do in bad times? And how high are the fees?

These are mutual funds that do consistently well to have two factors in common, according to the study: they have low expense ratios and are handled by managers with many years of experience.

But S&P warns that you shouldn't go picking fund winners among the worst performers, expecting them to rebound. The study shows that many of those in the bottom quartile tend to disappear altogether due to mergers or liquidations. The lesson their bad fund managers rarely get a lot better, and funds at a low streak almost never stay that way. If you're still buying funds based on how they did in the past, you might as well just give your money away. ■



MUTUAL FUNDS: Winning funds rarely last.

Ryley, Alta.: the national capital of solid waste

BY BARBARA BRIGHTON • For most people, a day when garbage is rolling into Ryley, Alta., from all across Canada



DUMPING for dimes: Ryley, Alberta.

Wright is the head of the Beaver Regional Waste Management Services Commission, an ambitious group of five municipalities that have big hopes for what he calls one of the best landfill sites in the world.

In an era when towns fight to stop landfills, and "not in my backyard" has become the rallying cry of municipalities across the country, Ryley—a town that is already home to a hazardous waste facility and may soon open a coal mine—is loudly promoting the plus side of dumps, not for waste creation.

"The engineers have said that if we wanted to solve every town of garbage in Canada, this facility could handle it for 300 years," Wright says.

In 2005, the commission earned an old 160-acre site into a 2,000-acre behemoth, buying the land owned by eight families. But better than buying, Wright says, is the fact that Ryley's dump is built on top of an "absolutely unpermeable" geological anomaly known as the Bear Pass. "The ground here is like a swelling clay," Wright explains. "To me, garbage is like water you want in a Tap near home with a water under reach, and that's what we've got." In a village of 450, the commission employs 25 people. It made a \$2 million profit in 2005. Edmonton will add some \$700,000 annually for its residential garbage in the first three years of a 30-year contract. Then the town and the money will pile higher, says Ryley's CAO Ross Good.

"The landfill is like anything else. How you look at it depends on your perspective."

And from Marilyn Ferrell's perspective, Ryley's name-study mission of waste is a disaster. The local cattle farmer's property is right next to the dump, and she has been during the past year for years and losing. "Everybody is entitled to everybody else," says Wright, "and you like it that their mud could have a really good smell, and a really good person." Unfortunately for Ferrell, everybody else's trash is turning into Ryley's treasure. ■

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MELBA SUBRAMAN: Jane Doe (not visible) after her victory in a lawsuit against Toronto police

RELEASE AND CATCH

Freeing the Balcony Rapist on a peace bond just makes him more of a threat, says Jane Doe

Jane Doe is the woman who successfully sued the Toronto Police Service for negligence and Charter violations in their conviction after 2006 rape by the "Balcony Rapist." She is a teacher, researcher, author and coauthor of *The Story of Jane Doe* (Random House).

The phenomenon began the week before Christmas. They came from the National People's Award, Connections Canada, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Victim Liaison Coordinator, the RCMP. Over the next few weeks, with a pause for the holidays, the list grew. The High Risk Advocacy Center Advisory Committee, the Ben Cravens Unit, the Victim Safety Unit, British Columbia Corrections, Toronto police. They were all calling and writing to inform her that the man who raped her, and four other women we know of, back in 1985, will be released from his Vancouver-area prison at the end of this week.

Early in his sentence, the Balcony Rapist—as he was dubbed by the media—had been diagnosed a high risk to reoffend. He was reportedly deemed parole and required to serve every day of his 10-year term. Almost released after the annals of legend. Now, when he goes on his mandatory release, he is unmonitored, or off-grid, to misquote the slogan of holiday housing, parole officers or programs

that might assist him re-entry to 10 years of social, technological and cultural change that have passed him by. But he will not go free.

During his incarceration the Balcony Rapist had declined the prison rehabilitation programs and engaged in what the National Parole Board euphemistically terms "disruptive behavior." "Usually inappropriate conduct" with female correction workers, and the "drug subculture" of our penal system. They would not elaborate or clarify for me,

'IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN,' THEY MIGHT AS WELL TELL MY RAPIST, 'HERE IS JANE DOE'S REAL NAME, AND DON'T CALL HER.'

but expect that he will do it again or worse once he is released, and so severe restrictions will be placed on his freedom.

Upon his release, a Section 810 will be enacted against him. More informally known as a "peace bond," an 810 injunction is an order made by a criminal court judge that lists certain conditions the offender must follow, even though his sentence is finished and he has committed no further crimes. 810s are

tailored to the individual and may forbid contact with certain people, presence in certain places, drinking, drug use or the use of fire arms. The offender must inform police of his whereabouts and report to them regularly for one year. The community on which he settles will be informed of his presence and just across from a public safety alert or warning. The 810 doesn't comply with the conditions he will be charged and returned to prison. The codes are enforceable nationally.

One of the conditions of the Balcony Rapist's 810 is that he have no contact with the women he was charged with raping 20 years ago. The HSRAC wants to know if it would be my real name on that list. "In case you have forgotten," they wrote as well as, "We as Jane Doe's real name—and wherever you do, don't tell her!" The purpose ostensibly to keep the public, which includes me and the other women he raped at large, safe. The criteria from all of the men—those who are freed and only a little paroled—allowing the irony of the situation.

I am extremely confused about the release of the man who raped me. On the one hand I am appalled how slow it is, though afraid to state it fear "fearful" is the anglicized rape metaphor used to play, named with name as damage and defined. We are forever "victims," weakened, debilitated and misnamed—defined only by the crime that has been committed against us—and I reject the meaning. At the same time, I am pragmatic about protecting myself.

But my "safety" or that of other women, never been by a peace bond. The 810 order depends on my right's compliance with its terms and on his reporting to the police—voluntarily given his record. He could simply go underground. He could stop going for a year but he will not owe to be a threat at that time.

The Balcony Rapist is already a recidivist, having served federal time for a series of rapes he committed as the late '70s. There is no sense to believe he will offend again.

When I queried the various victim service people who contacted me as to the wisdom of giving my rapist my name, the alternatives to that option, and the overall efficacy of an 810, the broken telephone game of voluntary people saying the same thing occurred. They

wanted to answer, but most of them didn't seem to have thought of their questions before. The network of service agencies that claim to preserve victims' rights and services is a well-funded bureaucracy. Rather than allowing those of us who have experienced crime or who work in the women's anti-violence sector any input or representation, it supports law-and-order agendas that demand longer sentences and longer prison as solutions to crime—even though we have clear proof that they don't work as deterrents.

This is in line with the way male crimes of violence against women are generally treated by our political and legal system. Police and government statistics reflect us that 75 per cent of sexual assault is not categorized by men economically or emotionally tied to the women involved. This lighting is fine and there is no problem making an identification, and yet we state on "stranger danger."

We leave that violence against women often unclear when peace bonds are issued, nonetheless our government persists in passing legislation like Section 810. These devices blend into each Harper government initiative as the "three arrows and you're out" bill, deleted in the House last week. Similar to "three arrows" legislation used in the U.S., it's expected to increase the number of prisoners classified as "dangerous offenders." This law and order ideology is touted as keeping Canadians safe but is the cornerstone of the prison growth industry, tying the hands of judges in sentencing and keeping men on streets off violence.

Clearly public safety would be better served if the Balcony Rapist, along with all who are released from prison, had prospects of housing and work, and if prison culture allowed for rehabilitation programs versus the same 19th-century solutions. Likewise, women's well-being would be vastly improved with funding to restore and increase community-based and feminist services for women who experience crimes of sexual violence.

When the man who raped me is released he will be given about 810. He did not agree in prison-work programs that pay a few dollars a day, nor was he required to. He will likely have few resources beyond that. He'll get a one-way ticket to a destination of his choice and the restrictions of a peace bond. It may contain the names of all the women whose lives he threatened, and instructs us to stay away from them. There is little to deter him from offending. The only benefit is that if, or when, likely when he dies, it will be a little easier for the police to catch him.

Meanwhile, annual match crimes will continue to occur at a disturbing rate, and women will continue to get raped, using fear of the legal response as the main reason. ■

Safe—but sorry?

Researchers are studying if vasectomies can cause dementia

BY DANIEL WATKINS — It began with an unexpected guest by a male patient of Sandra Witvitsky, a clinical neuropsychologist at Northwestern University's Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center in Chicago. The man was in the early stages of primary progressive aphasia, a rare neurodegenerative disease that slowly destroys a person's ability to remember and understand words. PPA victims eventually lose all capacity to care for themselves. The man was convinced the neurology he had had a couple of years earlier was responsible for his deteriorating mental faculties. Understandably, Witvitsky dismissed the idea—the man could put it easily have blamed a switch to a different brand of toothpaste. But a short time later, at one of the center's orientation meetings for PPA patients and their families, the same man asked who among the two dozen people in the room had PPA. Now this tested their hands. "And this he said, 'Well, how many guys had a vasectomy?'" And eight of the nine put their hands up. "Witvitsky smiled. 'My question was, 'Why?'"

It could have been a coincidence. Still, Witvitsky was intrigued by the possible link between the common procedure for sterilizing men and the unusual form of dementia. She and her colleagues went on to survey 37 men with PPA and 37 men with no cognitive impairment. They were between the ages of 55 and 65. The results, published in December in the journal *Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology*, showed that 40 per cent of the PPA patients had a vasectomy. Only 16 per cent in the unimpaired group had one. The researchers noted that vasectomy may increase the risk of developing PPA in men.

Witvitsky freely admits her study is too small [not to mention the only one of its kind] to be used to dissuade men from seeking the commonly performed procedure. What the findings do suggest is the need for more research. "I would say that this study has absolutely no bearing, at present, on making any kind of preventive recommendation about vasectomies," Witvitsky says. "People are asking me, 'Well, should I have my vasectomy?'" There's no question that the vasectomy normally causes [PPA].

But her findings do raise questions. Over the most several months, Witvitsky will try

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CREATIVE DIFFERENCES: GET THEM STRIPPED EARLY
Gwyneth Scott-Hughes, 73, who produced the video of Willard in the recent film version of Chinatown's 1974, needed help making a short film. But Courtney Kantor, a producer who financed the US\$1,000 movie, has demanded creative and distribution control, threatening to sue if Kantor finishes the film without her consent. Kay, through his parents, responded in late Hollywood fashion: He served Kantor with a lawsuit demanding rights to the final cut.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

as find between 200 and 300 PPA patients to further test the possible link in a new study. She also has a theory. It's based on the fact the virus are protected by a physical barrier to keep blood-borne infections from damaging sperm. However, a vasectomy breaks that protective wall, and allows semen to enter the blood. In up to 70 per cent of men who have had a vasectomy, the immune system responds to the semen as it would to a foreign infectious agent: it produces antibodies that attack the sperm. Perhaps, Wronski's theory, these antibodies also damage sperm cells to cause the disorders in some men.

OF THE NINE DEMENTIA PATIENTS IN THE GROUP, EIGHT HAD UNDERGONE THE OPERATION

had one, to determine whether they had any of 90 different disorders. The only condition found to be more common in men with a vasectomy was inflammation of the testis.

According to the U.S. National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, a number of studies to assess the safety of vasectomies continue today, including a major trial to see if vasectomy increases the risk of prostate cancer. "I think it's important to have a good understanding of the risks and benefits of vasectomy," says Dr. Wronski. "I think it's important to have a good understanding of the risks and benefits of vasectomy." "I think it's important to have a good understanding of the risks and benefits of vasectomy."

TONICS

IMPROVE YOUR EYES WITH WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER
Violent, short-cut video games could be good for you. Far from making life dull, they can improve visual acuity by 20 per cent when played for two hours a day, according to a new study. "Action video-game play changes the way our brains process visual information," says Daphne Bavelier, professor of brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester. "That learning comes over into other activities, possibly everyday life."

Preventive Health

YOUR GOOD HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS



It's a new age. Super size is going away to the new food movement and we've stopped taking our health for granted. Whether we've been scared by the fitness of a friend or family member or we're simply tired of feeling sluggish, we've taken our health in hand.

According to the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) conducted by Statistics Canada, 77 per cent of people aged 45-64 are concerned about the amount of fat in the foods they eat. And of those who express concern, 86 per cent are doing something about it. Almost half (44 per cent) of Canadians say they are concerned about getting enough starch and fibre in their diet. Women and high-income earners are the most likely to be stepping up their intake.

The U.S. National Center for Health Statistics says that mortality among adults age 45 to 64 has fallen dramatically. While in 1950, almost 58 in every thousand Americans would develop heart disease, by 1995, that number had been cut in half, falling to just under 27. For strokes and other cardiovascular diseases, the number of deaths dropped from 1.8 per thousand to 0.6 in the same time period.

But not all the news is good. According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, 1 in 3 Canadians with diabetes is undiagnosed and is at serious risk of health complications. And the Canadian

Diabetes Association is expecting an increase of about 50 per cent in the number of diabetics in the next five years.

One of the biggest trends in preventive health is a back-to-the-basics approach, getting away from highly processed foods and back to whole foods. Eating that for users on healthier lifestyles—not just weight loss—means we're paying closer attention to everything we're putting in our mouths. Fresh, natural, and organic products are hot properties. We want foods free of

pesticides, additives, and preservatives. We've even gone so far as to embrace foodscapes—foods for prevention and healing. Nutrition therapy is the new new thing.

If you're ready to take your health focus to the next level, it's time to find out more about all these superfoods you've been hearing about, put those bad habits behind you, and take the time to breathe deeply and relax. Healthy is beautiful. Healthy is smart. Healthy is very "in".

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Superfoods

The foods we eat every day could be our best weapons in the battle against disease. From omega-3 fatty acids to flavonoids, eating well may be our best defence.

Dr David Spence of the Roberts Research Institute at the University of Western Ontario, and author of *How to Prevent Your Stroke*, says, "We've calculated that in the highest-risk people we can reduce risk by more than 90 per cent" by changing the way we live and what we put in our mouths. "It turns out," says Dr Spence, "that what high-risk patients can do for themselves is bigger than what their doctors can do for them!" Adds, according to the American

"We should eat fruits and vegetables of all colours because Mother Nature is better at figuring out how to combine a whole bunch of different antioxidants than any company." — DR. DAVID SPENCE

Cancer Society, "It does high in fruits and vegetables can help prevent cancer over a lifetime." So the key to avoiding heart disease or cancer may be found in our pantries rather than our medicine cabinets.

We know that cranberries contain an antioxidant known to reduce urinary tract infections by stopping bacteria from attaching to the bladder wall. Now cranberries are being lauded because



drinking up to three glasses of cranberry juice a day significantly raises levels of "good cholesterol" in the blood and increases plasma antioxidant levels, reducing the risk of heart disease by up to 40 per cent.

Pro biotics: Yogurt made with live, active cultures keep the gut happy and healthy by improving digestion, and absorbing toxins and nutrients that may contribute to colon cancer. Want a stronger immune system? Have some yogurt. A terrific source of calcium and protein, as long as it contains live cultures, it matters not if it's made with dairy or soy milk.

Blueberries contain more antioxidants than any other fruit or vegetable except acai berries. High in a group of flavonoids called anthocyanins, blueberries are thought to be a powerful tool for the prevention of eye disease, cancer, heart disease and arthritis.

Raw in general or cooked in multifer, oats, which contain beta-glucan—a soluble fibre—can help lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure in hypertensive patients. One of the few grains that contains heart-healthy antioxidants, the dietary fibre and protein in oats make you feel full fast.

Cinnamon's medicinal properties include anti-clotting actions and anti-microbial activity. It's also thought to



"We need a variety of deep colours in our fruits and vegetables; the more deeply coloured the fruits or veggies, the more nutrients they contain."

— CAROL DOMBROW, RD, HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION

boost brain function (i.e. memory) and aid in digestion. A 2006 study published in the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation* found that cinnamon extract reduces fasting plasma glucose concentrations in type 2 diabetics.

Tea Whether you drink it cold, hot or decaffeinated, black or green, there's clear evidence that drinking three to four

cups of tea a day can cut the chances of having a heart attack, protect against cancer, offset tooth plaque and, potentially, tooth decay, and strengthen bones.

Spinach a full of carotenoids, lutein, zeaxanthin and beta-carotene, which are all important in preventing macular degeneration and other eye diseases. They are also potent anti-cancer

agents and important for heart health. High in vitamin C and folate, calcium and iron, you can add spinach to salads, soups, and casseroles or make it into pesto. Don't like spinach? Try kale, Swiss chard or collard greens.

Avocados are high in monounsaturated (good) fat, lutein, folate, Vitamin E and potassium and are very digestible. They are higher in beta-sterosterol, which helps reduce cholesterol, than any other fruit.

One cup of fresh mango provides 166 per cent of the Daily Value for vitamin A (and it's super rich in beta-carotene), and 61 per cent of the Daily Value for vitamin C along with 3 g of fibre—most of which is soluble—vitamin E and vitamin B6.

Oranges are high in vitamin C and flavonoids, especially hesperidin, making them important for cancer prevention, cardiovascular health, and the immune system. Hesperidin lowers high blood pressure and is a powerful anti-inflammatory. Eating the whole fruit is most beneficial. Whole oranges (and other citrus) contain the fibre pectin, which is useful in the management of diabetes, removes toxins from the body and helps to reduce cholesterol. Don't peel away all the white membrane and pith since they contain many nutrients.

ANTIOXIDANTS COMBAT FREE RADICALS

Antioxidants are substances that can prevent or slow damage to or destruction of cells by free radicals. Free radicals are the unstable molecules that are produced by normal body metabolism and environmental pollutants. Oxidation is one of the causes of disease and ageing. Antioxidants can be found in many foods, including fruits, vegetables, and grains. Some antioxidants are also found in supplements.

Psyllium fibre is one of nature's highest sources of soluble fibre and has been proven to lower bad cholesterol (LDL cholesterol) and ultimately the risk of heart disease. Clinical studies show that consuming cereals with psyllium fibre each day as part of a healthy diet can help reduce elevated bad cholesterol (LDL cholesterol) levels by up to 10 per cent in as little as four weeks.

Flaxseed provides higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids than any other plant source and flax is also the best source of the phytoestrogens known as lignans, which seem to help prevent breast cancer and other estrogen-related diseases. High in fibre and minerals, and containing high-quality protein, add a teaspoonful of ground

flaxseed to salads, yogurt or cottage cheese or mix into mayonnaise or mustard on your sandwiches.

Tomatoes are one of the few foods that are usually more powerful after they have been cooked. Cooking tomatoes frees the lycopene, which is important for cardiovascular health and age-related degenerative conditions. Since it is believed that lycopene is not stored long in the body, it's a good idea to eat tomato-based foods daily if you can. Lycopene is fat-soluble, so make your pasta sauce with olive oil or add a little cheese to your veggie pizza.

According to a study in the *American Journal of Medicine*, fruit and vegetable juices may significantly cut the risk of Alzheimer's. Researchers found the risk 35 per cent lower for the 2,080 people they studied for up to 10 years who drank juice more than three times a week, compared with those who drank it less than once a week. Fruit and vegetable juices are rich in polyphenols—chemicals that are thought to neutralize the effect of damaging compounds called free radicals.

Soybeans contain protein, essential fatty acids, fibre, phytoestrogens and plant sterols. Aside from their value as a protein source, they are useful to help lower cholesterol and manage menopausal symptoms. Use soy as a dried bean, or in other forms such as edamame, tofu, tempeh, soy milk or miso.

Tilapia is the new salmon without the old controversy. A mild-tasting white fish, Tilapia is high-quality protein and has almost no saturated fat. Tilapia eat algae and plants. Because they are low on the food chain, they don't build up pollutants and other toxins in their bodies.

Just 4-6 Brussels sprouts contain all the Vitamin C you'll need for the day along with folate, potassium, vitamin K, fibre and beta-carotene. Brussels sprouts also contain nitrogen compounds called indoles known for their cancer-fighting properties.

Broccoli may be the biggest star in the food world when it comes to cancer prevention. Nutrient-dense, it's a great



"Variety is the key. There isn't one best food. Eat a variety of food from all food groups, and you'll get the key nutrients and antioxidants your body needs."

— SUSIE LANGLEY, M.S., RD

boost for the immune system, fighting and boosting cardiovascular health. The sulphoraphanes it contains are very effective against *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterium that causes stomach ulcers.

Sweet potatoes are one of the best plant sources of beta-carotene, which our bodies convert to vitamin A. High in fibre, vitamin C, and a host of minerals, they are important for preventing eye disease, heart disease and cancer. Sweet potatoes have recently been classified as an "antidiabetic" food because recent studies show they help stabilize blood sugar levels and lowered insulin resistance.

LIVING WITH HIGH CHOLESTEROL YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER



Don't delay. Take control of your cholesterol now.

Some risks can be managed. One of them is your high cholesterol, which can lead to cardiovascular disease such as a heart attack or even a stroke.¹ Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Canada and about one quarter of heart attack sufferers do not survive.²

Life is precious, so why not take measures to reduce unnecessary risk? High cholesterol is manageable. A healthy lifestyle is an essential part, but sometimes not enough. So it may be necessary for your doctor to incorporate other measures.

Since high cholesterol is a risk factor for heart attack and stroke, why take a chance by doing nothing about it?

You may not feel high cholesterol, but you could feel its impact. Make the Connection. Join the millions of Canadians who are taking action, because you never know what's around the corner...

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Separating Fat from Fiction

Fat has a bad name. People don't like to be called "fat." People don't think fat is healthy. People don't want to eat fat anymore. [Actually, they do, because it makes food taste good, but they're loath to admit it.]

So is fat really as bad as everyone says it is? That depends on the kind of fat. The right kind of fat—unsaturated fat—provides energy, is a source of essential fatty acids that our bodies don't produce, and helps our bodies to absorb fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K. Up to thirty per cent of our calories should come from fat.

"A Mediterranean diet reduces the risk of stroke and heart attack by 60 per cent in four years" — DR. DAVID SPENCE

Fat is in the throes of an image makeover thanks to new research on polyunsaturated omega-3 fatty acids—found in walnuts, flaxseed, soybeans and fish such as salmon, tuna, lake trout, and herring—and their ability to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Eating about two tablespoons of monounsaturated olive oil a day may also reduce the risk of heart disease. Olive oil contains monounsaturated fat that can lower "bad" LDL cholesterol levels when eaten instead of saturated fats. However, olive oil contains about the same amount of total fat grams and calories as other types of fat.

"The easiest way to get both canola oil and olive oil," says Dr. Spence "is to use one of the non-hydrogenated

canola margarine with olive oil in it."

The now popular "Mediterranean diet," which contains olive oil, canola oil, fish, vegetables, fruit and whole grains, shows eating the right kind of fat can significantly reduce heart disease risk. One study found that the traditional diet on the Greek island of Crete significantly reduced heart disease risk, even though fat made up 48 per cent of the calories. How is that even possible? "That's possible," says Dr. Spence, "because some oils, such as olive and canola (a source of omega-3s)



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*Fletcher RH, Palchick EM. Vitamins for Chronic Disease Prevention in Adults. JAMA. 2000;283:3127-3130.

The HEART of the MATTER

It's not only the fat we carry, but where we carry it, that predicts our risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOCATION

Apparently this maxim pertains not only to real estate values but also to the health risks associated with carrying excess weight. While decades of research have firmly established the link between obesity and heart disease, more recent evidence has led experts to conclude that abdominal (also called visceral or central) fat does far more damage than the fat that settles on the lower body. Pound for pound, excess weight that sits around the middle, giving people a so-called apple shape, poses a greater cardiovascular risk than extra padding around the hips, buttocks and thighs (the pear-shaped look).

Why does abdominal fat wreak more havoc than fat located elsewhere in the body? Unlike lower-body fat, fat that lies in the abdominal cavity releases fat molecules into the blood, says Dr. Jean-Pierre Despres, Director of research, Cardiology, at the Quebec Heart Institute in Laval, Quebec, and a pioneer in the area of abdominal obesity. This gives rise to a cascade of metabolic abnormalities that raise the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, he says. "We also have evidence that excess abdominal fat releases substances that contribute to an inflammatory state, which boosts the risk of having a heart attack."

The method of assessing cardiovascular risk, known as the Framingham Risk Score (FRS), takes age, blood pressure, smoking status, total cholesterol, and HDL cholesterol into consideration. It does not include blood sugar or fat distribution, both of which contribute to risk for heart disease, says Dr. Milan Gupta, a staff cardiologist at the Wilson-Dieter Health Centre in Brampton and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton.

"We've come to realize in the past decade that FRS may be outdated and needs to be refined," he says. Because of the change in people's diets and activity levels, central obesity assumes greater importance as a risk factor today than it did 40 years ago.

As it turns out, the one-two punch of a high-calorie diet and a sedentary lifestyle predisposes people to develop more central obesity than ever before.

While men may sport the spare-tire look in greater numbers than women, "both genders are at risk of developing abdominal obesity and its consequences," Dr. Gupta maintains. As such, all adults seeing their family physician should be assessed for the presence of cardiovascular risk factors, as most risk factors are silent. (See Box) As it turns out, waist circumference serves as a good indicator of abdominal obesity. In general, a waistline greater than 102 cm (male) or 88 cm (female) should raise a red flag, says Dr. Gupta. In Chinese and South Asian individuals,

who tend to have smaller frames, recommended limits are 90 cm (male) and 80 cm (female).

The recently completed IDEA (International Day for the Evaluation of Abdominal Obesity) study, which enrolled over 170,000 patients worldwide, underscored the prevalence of abdominal obesity in the Canadian population and its link to cardiovascular disease. Key among the study's findings: nearly 50 per cent of Canadians have an expanded waistline. Furthermore, an increase of 14 to 15 cm in waist circumference boosts the likelihood of cardiovascular disease by 21 to 40 per cent.

The past decade of research convinced Dr. Despres that abdominal obesity also takes the lion's share of responsibility for the epidemic of type 2 diabetes in our midst. "If we could wipe out abdominal obesity in Canada, type 2 diabetes would disappear or become very rare," he says.

WAISTLINE WARNING

A new term, "cardiometabolic risk," representing the global risk of developing heart disease or type 2 diabetes, is now finding its way into medical literature. Cardiometabolic risk encompasses both "classic" risk factors (high blood sugar, high levels of LDL or "bad" cholesterol, smoking, and high blood pressure), and "emerging" risk factors—abdominal obesity, high triglycerides (a type of fat in the blood) and low levels of HDL or "good" cholesterol. In fact, "abdominal obesity is often the catalyst to many of these risk factors," notes Dr. Despres, adding that

Pound for pound, excess weight that sits around the middle poses a greater cardiovascular risk than extra padding around the hips, buttocks and thighs.

"even patients with apparently no classic risk factors for heart disease may have an elevated risk if they carry excess abdominal fat."

If results of the Canadian arm of the 2006 Shape of the Nations survey are any indication, the notion of cardiometabolic risk has yet to find its way into the public consciousness: less than 20 per cent of the general population in Canada, and only 75 per cent of Canadian physicians, were aware of the term. Of a more encouraging note, the ranks of doctors measuring waist circumference (some of their patients had swelled by 20 per cent from the previous year's figure).

Dr. Rafik Habib, professor of family medicine at the Université de Montréal and director of the Laval Cardiovascular Centre, is one of the proponents of waist circumference measurement. "I've been measuring waistlines for the past 10 years," he says. "It's a simple

test that can have dramatic implications." Its power became apparent to Dr. Habib at a medical conference where a lecturer spoke of the dangers of abdominal obesity and measured the waistlines of selected audience members. "I could see the light bulbs go on above their heads," he recalls. "They realize their big guts were not just a matter of esthetics. Some of them went on to completely change their lifestyles."

According to Dr. Gupta, losing the spare tire goes a long way toward reducing cardiometabolic risk. "Taking two to three inches off your waist—even without losing weight overall—can improve most of the metabolic abnormalities associated with abdominal obesity," he explains. A combination of regular physical exercise and a heart-smart diet (high in fruits, vegetables and fiber) can bring waistlines down to a healthy size. Adds Dr. Despres: "We know from recent intervention studies that monthly patient visits with an exercise physiologist and nutritionist can really make a difference."

Where lifestyle changes and diet fail, weight-loss medications can help some people shave an extra 10 to 15 percent off their body weight, says Dr. Gupta. "Patients considering medication should discuss the pros and cons with their doctor."

Dr. Despres, for his part, distills his message into two simple phrases: "Watch out for that waistline. It is the cholesterol of the 21st century."

For a free booklet on cardiometabolic risk and preventing it, please send an email with your mailing address to cardiometabolic@laval.com

5-POINT HEALTHY HEART CHECK

If your waistline tops the recommended cut-offs (102/88 cm for males/females, 90/80 cm for Chinese or South Asian), ask your health care provider to conduct a cardiometabolic risk assessment, which can help establish your risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

The 5-point check includes measurements of:

1. Waist circumference
2. Blood sugar (blood glucose)
3. Good and bad cholesterol
4. Blood fat (triglycerides)
5. Blood pressure



the typical North American diet." "Our heart-attack, stroke and obesity rates are largely because we eat too much meat," says Dr. Spence, who clarifies that as not just being red meat, but "anything with eyes, a face or a mother!"

He points out that in China, before fast food became common, "the intake of animal fat was one-tenth of what we eat, which is why they had one-tenth the heart attacks."

While Dr. Spence is a big proponent of the right diet, he says there is one very important proviso: "Some people can't get all the nutrients they need from a healthy diet." He cites the example of Vitamin B12. "The absorption of B12 is amazingly complex," says Dr. Spence. "There are something like eight ways for Vitamin B12 absorption to go wrong."

"We get vitamin B12 mostly from meat, which isn't good for your arteries," says Dr. Spence, who recommends a extended-release supplement dose of 1,300 micrograms daily (or twice a day if you have been shown to have low blood levels of B12) to ensure you're getting enough B12, which is water soluble and washes away quickly.

Different types of fat have a varied—and somewhat confusing—effect on our health. Here's the simple message: check out the bad fats and replace them with good fats.

• Limit saturated fats (mainly found in animal products such as meat, dairy, eggs and seafood), which raise total blood cholesterol as well as LDL (bad) cholesterol.



Fat around the midsection is a strong risk factor for heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and even some types of cancers.

• Minimize trans fats in your diet. Trans fats not only make you fatter than other foods with the same number of calories, but, according to researchers at Wake Forest University, trans fats also increase the amount of fat around the belly.

• Replace saturated and trans fats with polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, which lower total cholesterol and LDL (bad) cholesterol and increase the HDL (good) cholesterol.

There is one type of fat that isn't getting any more popular: belly fat. According to a study carried out by researchers from McMaster University, you can gauge your heart attack risk by where your fat is, and belly fat is the worst. Fat around the midsection is a strong risk factor for heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and even some types of cancers.

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McMaster University researchers found that people who ate a diet low in saturated and trans fats had a 50% lower risk of heart disease. This is because a diet low in saturated and trans fats helps to reduce the amount of fat around the midsection, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the blood, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the liver, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the pancreas, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the kidneys, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the lungs, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the skin, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the muscles, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the bones, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the brain, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease. A diet low in saturated and trans fats also helps to reduce the amount of fat in the heart, which is a strong risk factor for heart disease.





Crazy Lifestyle? Slow Down!

Only so much of what we do wrong starts in the kitchen. Often stress, long work hours, too much to do, and bad habits take their toll on our health.

According to a new study out of California, people who work more than 54 hours a week are 20 per cent more likely to have high blood pressure than those who worked 39 hours or less. High blood pressure forces your cardiac muscles to work harder and become thicker and less efficient at pumping. This in turn raises your risk of stroke, kidney failure, heart disease and heart attack.

Dr. Spence says, "Strokes could be reduced by nearly half if blood pressure were adequately controlled."

Drs. Michael Robyn and Mehmet Oz, authors of *Now The Owner's Manual*, say that the average blood pressure is too high at 130/85, the ideal blood pressure is 115/75.

One way to beat high blood pressure (breathe). Research suggests breathing slowly for a few minutes each day is enough to help some people nudge down bad blood pressure. It seems how we breathe may hold a key to how the body regulates blood pressure—not because it relaxes you, but because it helps in breathing down all that salt we eat.

Avoid salty foods and cut down on salt in cooking and at the table. And don't drink too much alcohol: more than two drinks per day raises blood pressure in some people. Drs. Robyn and Oz also suggest that you eat foods rich in potassium, folate and calcium such as bananas, oranges, melons, kiwis, potatoes, tomatoes, milk, nuts, and whole grain cereals.

Time to Kick a Bad Habit

If current trends hold, tobacco will kill a billion people this century, 10 times the toll it took in the 20th century. Tobacco accounts for one in five cancer deaths. According to Dr. Spence, "Smoking increases the risk of stroke six-fold, and even passive smoking—second-hand smoke—almost doubles the risk of stroke. If you're in a smoky room for two hours, it damages your artery lining for about 16 hours."

More than 47,000 Canadians will die prematurely this year due to tobacco use, and almost 8,000 non-smokers die each year from exposure to second-hand smoke. But there is good news.

Each year thousands of Canadians

quit smoking, and it can prove to be a major turning point in people's lives. For many former smokers, quitting gives them a better sense of well-being and often leads to a number of other positive health changes.

It's never too late to quit. Any attempt at quitting smoking will improve your chances of kicking the habit for good.

Quitting smoking is a process that requires careful planning, courage, discipline, and commitment. You can succeed by following these simple steps, pick a "quit day" and stick to it. List your reasons for quitting—health, family or money. Be positive that you are choosing to be smoke-free and last but not least, celebrate your success.

There are many products that can help you quit smoking. They work best when they are used as directed and combined with self-help programs or counselling. While some products will require a doctor's prescription, others are available over-the-counter at your local drugstore. These include:

- Nicotine replacement therapies
- Nicotine patch
- Nicotine gum
- Nicotine nasal spray
- Antidepressant drugs (i.e. Zyban)

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, once you become smoke free, you immediately reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke. Within 48 hours, your chances of having a heart attack start to go down and your sense of smell and taste begin to improve. Within one year, your risk of suffering a smoking-related heart attack is cut in half. And within 15 years, your risk of heart attack is the same as someone who never smoked at all.



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Move

Exercise is vital to improving and maintaining health and our bodies respond to physical activity in almost all chronic conditions, including diabetes, colon cancer, asthma, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, arthritis, depression, and anxiety. It doesn't have to be intense to bring results. As you begin to exercise regularly, your stamina and strength will improve.

Walking is one of the best exercises available because it is inexpensive, low impact, and can be done virtually anywhere. Aim for thirty minutes on most days of the week. That doesn't have to be thirty minutes all at once; exercising in three intervals of 10 minutes each throughout the day has almost the same benefits as one 30-minute session. Once you build up to vigorous exercise, spend a few minutes to warm up and cool down before and after each workout. The muscles need this time to get ready and then relax from strenuous exercise.

Walking is one of the best exercises available because it is inexpensive, low impact, and can be done virtually anywhere.



Sleep

Sleep deprivation is believed to impact almost a quarter of the adult population. And it's a problem that's been getting steadily worse. In 1910, the average person slept nine hours a night. By 1975 we were down to 7.5 hours of slumber. And our sleep-time continues to erode. The 2002 Sleep in America poll, conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, showed that we now sleep only 6.9 hours a night.

In a study of almost 7,000 people conducted over 15 years, those who slept seven to eight hours regularly lived significantly longer than those who slept fewer hours. Sleep restores our body's physical and mental energy reserves, keeps us more alert so we're less accident-prone, and increases our resistance to disease and infections. A 1999 University of Chicago Medical Center study demonstrated that sleep deprivation reduces the body's ability to metabolize glucose by up to 40 per cent, leading to symptoms that mimic early stage diabetes.

Sleep apnea is one cause of sleep deprivation. People with untreated sleep apnea stop breathing – sometimes hundreds of times – during their sleep, often for a minute or longer. Untreated,

sleep apnea can cause high blood pressure and other cardiovascular disease, memory problems, weight gain, depression and impotency.

According to the Canadian Lung Association, family members or bed partners often pick up on signs of sleep

EVER WONDERED WHY YOUR COLD SYMPTOMS SEEM TO GET WORSE AT NIGHT?

Yes, you've probably noticed that your cold symptoms seem to get worse at night. But why? It's not just your imagination. At night, your body's natural defenses are at their lowest. That's why you're more likely to get sick at night. So, if you're having trouble sleeping at night, it's important to get your sleep. And that's why you should get a good night's sleep.



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apnea, since people with sleep apnea often don't know they're snoring and gasping for breath at night. If you have any of the following signs, see your doctor:

- Daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring followed by silent pauses
- Coughing or choking during sleep
- Morning headache
- Irritability or mood changes
- Poor concentration or memory loss
- Lowered sex drive
- Falling asleep while driving

Treatment depends on whether your sleep apnea is mild, moderate or severe. For mild sleep apnea, your doctor might recommend lifestyle changes such as losing weight, sleeping on your side, or eliminating smoking or alcohol consumption. For moderate to severe cases, your doctor may recommend treatments such as Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), dental devices or even surgery.

A growing body of evidence highlights the link between lack of sleep and increased weight and body mass index. Levels of the hormone leptin, which delivers feelings of satiation to the brain, decrease in



sleep-deprived people. As if that weren't bad enough, levels of the hormone ghrelin, which spurs hunger, shoot up prompting cravings for sweets. Sleep deprivation also increases levels of stress hormones such as cortisol, and resistance to insulin, which contribute to weight gain.

You have to activate your body's relaxation response to keep cortisol

levels under control. Whether you use guided imagery, yoga or breathing exercises, your ability to relax will get a good night's sleep impacts your overall health in myriad of ways.

People who have trouble getting enough sleep often have trouble falling asleep. It should only take about 15 minutes to drop off. If you're still buzzed at bedtime, it may be that you simply haven't done enough physical activity during the day. Careful though, don't exercise too close to bedtime since exercising one or two hours before bed can hinder your ability to nod off.

Eating too late at night can also keep the serotonin at bay so if sleep eludes you, don't eat anything heavy three hours before you go to bed. And skip the chocolate dessert since both caffeine and sugar can keep you up!

Still having trouble catching some z's? Include foods with L-tryptophan—skinless turkey and chicken, lean milk, tuna, low fat cottage cheese, soybeans, and cashews—in your evening meal. Relax in a hot bath or do deep breathing exercises before bedtime to slow down. And if you drink more than one alcoholic beverage in a day, cut back; alcohol can cause sleep disturbances.

HEALTH CHECK™ MAKES THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE

Making healthy food choices is *meat* Canada's Food Guide recommendation can seem difficult. To help you navigate the grocery aisles looking for healthy choices, the Heart and Stroke Foundation offers the Health Check symbol on food packaging.

Every participating product week the Health Check symbol is evaluated by the Foundation's dietitians and must meet 12 out of 16 criteria based on the Food Guide. At the only food party, non-culinary food information program in Canada, Health Check is a trusted source of nutrition information. Close to it out of 10 Canadians say they can trust Health Check because it comes from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

MEETING THE NUTRITION CRITERIA

The Health Check program looks at the total food to ensure that it is a part of healthy eating. The program has over 70 categories of foods with unique nutrition criteria based mainly on Health Canada's nutrient content claims. For example, for milk products,

the fat and calcium content are reviewed. For grains, the fat and fibre and, where appropriate, the sodium values are reviewed. Health Check is helping to improve the Canadian food supply as a steady number of food companies are reformulating their products to meet Health Check nutrition criteria.

KEEP WATCHING

Every month the Health Check program adds new companies and products to its growing list. In fact, Health Check recently met a major milestone: reaching 1000 products in the program and expanding its restaurant program by adding two major restaurant chains. Thanks to this growth, two kinds of grocery shoppers are now aware of Health Check. Make sure to visit www.healthcheck.org for our list of participating products and also many useful tips on healthy eating, meal planning, understanding nutrition labels, healthy recipes and a shopping list.

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There's a taste of home in every bite of Canada's favourite Lasagne. Succulent layers of apricot noodles, three kinds of melted cheeses and a mouth-watering seasoned tomato and meat sauce. Steelhead® Meat Lasagne is now a proud participant in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Health Check™ program. If you're passionate about great food, look for it in your grocer's freezer today.

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Call to action

North Americans eat about 16 lbs of seafood each (or approximately 4.7 billion pounds total) every year. But most of us are confused by the mixed messages surrounding seafood: it's high in omega-3 fatty acid, so eat lots, it's high in toxic substances like mercury, dioxins and PCBs, so avoid!

A new report from the Institute of Medicine is saying that the benefits of cardiovascular health from eating seafood, including farm fish, far outweigh the risk of cancer from environmental contaminants.

This is just one example of how food in the news can be confusing: it is sometimes difficult to determine what's a fact and what has a sound scientific basis (like: growing new developments isn't the answer). Neither is anything out a food story's best in the news. "I think all this

has to be placed in the context of healthy eating," says Carol Dombrow, "eating salmon every night may not be the best thing for you." She insists that we have to learn more about the foods we're eating so we know why so much fuss is being made about specific foods. To stay on top of what does our bodies good, we need to stop looking for an easy way out, and start taking responsibility for our own health.

If the conflicting research about the health benefits of different foods has you confused, then the best recipe may be to mix it up. New research suggests that it



"You do have to look at portion sizes. We're just eating too much. If the recipe says it serves four, and you polish off the whole thing in one sitting, you're not going to get any healthier."

— CAROL DOMBROW

may be the ways in which various foods work together that produce the biggest health benefits. And the way to get the best results is by eating whole foods.

"You do have to look at portion sizes," warns Dombrow who says, "we're just eating too much." If the recipe says it serves four, and you polish off the whole thing in one sitting, you're not going to get any healthier. Ms. Dombrow says the new Canada Food Guide will help.

Due to be released in early 2007, expectations are that there will be more information on serving by age and gender, so it will better guide individuals as they choose portions and make healthy food choices.



"THERE'S NOTHING usual about it," says one worker at ASD. "Now, would you like a diaper change?"

Won't you be my baby?

At 'adult daycare,' naps and sippy cups are fine. As for spanking, well...

BY MARTIN PATRICKS • The place where men go to be babies is on the second floor of an anonymous white-washed brick complex in working-class east-end Montreal. Visitors walk up steep concrete stairs past a crucifix bobbed to the wall and into another world, where the smell of cigarettes is replaced by baby powder, diapers and strawberry-scented No Tears soap. Sylvester and Bugs Bunny records defend the walls, and the faint, happy melody of Peter Dinklage emanates from the kitchen.

"Anabelle" is dressed in a thick sweater and stays on her knees, and the workers that you're likely to find outside. She hugs your coat and leads you, a grown man, by the hand into the living room decked out with all the colorful staples of childhood: a rocking horse, a cradle playpen, a playpen. Anabelle's specialty is arts and crafts, and

she procures scratch art, a snack, a bedtime story and a nap. But first, no business: it's 11:50 a.m. and she is seated like a baby at ASD, short for "adult baby and diaper services," and you have to pay up.

The transition is complete. Anabelle's congenial grandmother—though she is confused by a question about the sexual nature of a grown man wanting to be pumped and peed like a child. Some of the other nannies, it's true, spank their charges, but "I don't like to hurt my kids."

"There's nothing usual at all about it," Anabelle says, grinning once again. "Now, would you like a diaper change?"

ASD purports to be the first of a handful

of places in North America catering to those grown men—and they are overwhelmingly men—who find comfort and pleasure in reliving the rhythms of childhood. According to Karl, an owner of and practitioner at ASD, the experience means different things for different people. Since the overgrown daycare opened last November, it's hosted a range of people, from those who love to visit diapers to those who pretend to be small animals, or like to splash around the bathtub or just need to be mothered.

There is a sexual side, to be sure—spanking is never past a spanking when it comes to adults. "It can be sexual, but not here," insists Karl. "There is no sexual contact whatsoever." Instead, he says, mostly acting like babies is all about protection and regression, a way to harken back to the days when a soiled diaper was the worst-case scenario. "When I was 11, it felt then," he is known, was deemed just kinky enough to be the fifth of three on a recent CSI episode, in which the victim was a rich but callous casino owner who died with a diaper rash. "It's only the truly powerful that have the luxury to relinquish power," said evangelist G.D. Groucho, sadly.

Karl would agree. He is bankers, lawyers and financial advisors in clients, most (but not all) of whom dress up and act as babies only to let someone else be in charge for a change. "When I'm around I put on a diaper and I watch TV with my nannies," Karl says. "When I have sexual relations it has nothing to do with diapers or nannies. It's totally different. I'm like a little boy."

ANABELLE IS PLEASANT but firm in her directions: "Make sure you use different colors, or else it will all look the same when you draw your scratch pictures," she says. When the media arrives, she always has a lollipop



INDONESIA: DEATH IS NOT PROUD, JUST BE FUN
A new, upscale cemetery development near Jakarta depicts as a country club, with swimming pools, landscaping and a fitness center—the first cemetery to combine active lifestyles with serene remembrance. "We wanted something pleasant," said Silvio Attadola, whose firm is developing the facility. The project has already sold 1,000 plots to enthusiastic families. Says Attadola, "In addition to paying respects, they can be a sustained fun."

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BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR SHOES, CHECK YOUR SOCKS.

The most comforting news for your feet isn't a new pair of shoes. It's a revolutionary line of socks called Therapy Plus. Thanks to some pretty neat technology, they can keep your feet from swelling on long flights. Or keep them super dry inside walking shoes and sneakers. There's even a non-elastic Therapy Plus that makes living with diabetes easier. For the whole story on our men's and women's socks, check www.therapyplus.ca



and phantoms in his mouth. He teaches Grade 5 in real life, and is in the process of adopting children. One of his "children," of the 1990s he's kind, recently bought a guitar for her. He wants to pay her around the park during the summer. "The last thing I need is for a parent to get a picture of this," she says. "Can you imagine, on the cover of *Journal de Montréal*?"

At *maison Amabelle*, reads *Le coquille assomée* ("The Cressida in Love"), about a former nun who falls hopelessly for a girl, in a soft, young voice more to prompt sleep. She gets up, and she's dressed in a white and grey suit, leaving you to stare at yourself in the ceiling mirror or at the gang of people-eyed plush toys watching you from it. Other end of the oversized crib. There are tracks and tracks of adult-sized dust on a bookshelf nearby. "You've just drunk fuzzy peach juice from a cup," says Verle. "It's possible." When Amabelle comes back 10 minutes later, she's in a chair with his eyes closed, just for show. "You look beautiful when you are asleep," she says.

And you think I bet you say that to all your babies.

THERE IS A CHILD in every one of us, Karl says, and before anyone judges a grown man in Pampers, just think: how many of us cling on to the therapeutic blanket or worn teddy bear because it reminds us of when we were far more innocent? (Amabelle isn't a teenager or a fossil, he says: it's a matter of degree.)

On a Sunday afternoon, the syndicated sex columnist, whose blunt and graphic advice on all things carnal has occasionally made him a target, says: "I'm not a man, I'm a woman, period," he says. "Some like to argue it's because men are socialized to make demands and go for what they want—sexually, socially, professionally—while women are subject to the exact opposite socialization."

What infidelity isn't, he adds, is dangerous. "People who infidelity are not sexually attracted to children or infants. They want to be infants, or be treated like infants, usually by grown women." They bring to experience the intimacy of infancy and the complete lack of control that characterizes that condition.

It's certainly how Amabelle sees it, as the spread child centers on your hands and buttocks. "You can't pick your own," she says. "You don't have a choice!" The kids disappear, then, but you're left in a little too brightly lit, a little too long. There it's out the door, as she waves goodbye like there's a school bus waiting outside. ■

THE JOY OF SOCKS

A new service saves men from embarrassing holes in their toes

BY REBECCA ECKLER • *Retired* during a business meeting in London two years ago, David Verle says his mind began to wander. "After a couple of hours sitting at my meeting, all I can start to think about is you can really see their socks!" says the Vancouver-based Verle. "All of these men were wearing these great socks and beautiful shoes, but their socks were awful. Just awful!" It was then that Verle got the idea for *MonthlySocks.com*.

The idea works much like a magazine subscription: subscribers get a pair of socks delivered to their door once a month. "I remember after that meeting a bunch of us went out and I started asking them about their sock drawers," says Verle, 36. "All of them, except for the gay men, said their sock drawer was not in good shape. I asked about 50 or 60 men."

Verle, who is also a runner, decided to create a sock that felt like a sports sock—with a double layer at the bottom—but that looks like a dress sock. "Men always say they don't like what they wear. But the truth is, they want to wear something comfortable. And most dress socks are quite cold. They are usually pretty thin. My feet were always uncomfortable and cold, especially in the winter. But you can't wear a sports sock to a meeting," says Verle.

Then there's the problem of orphan socks, another reason Verle thinks his business will take off. "It's amazing how many socks we lose," he says. "Men seem to lose more socks than women. But, even women, most men I know keep socks for years and years. They have holes in the toes. But they don't care because no one sees them. A lot of these men who make upwards of \$200,000 a year and they are walking around with holes in their socks."

MonthlySocks.com offers four different "subscription" packages, starting at \$10 (a one dollar that gets you three pairs). The

\$10 subscription delivers six pairs of socks to your door, a pair every two months. The most expensive subscription, \$70, will get you a pair of socks every month for a year (it works out to be less than six dollars a pair). So far, *MonthlySocks.com* offers three choices of colors, 30, 40, 42 and 44. The socks, which are made of 80 per cent cotton, 15 per cent nylon and two per cent spandex, arrive in a white glossy envelope like a Prada package.

"The truth is, men don't like shopping in general, and definitely not for socks. It's always something their wives or girlfriends buy. Or even when they're 40, their moms will still buy socks for their sons. Buying socks is just never something you get around to doing

'I'VE BEEN SICK OF LOOKING AT YOUR SOCKS FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS,' WROTE ONE WOMAN

You know you should, but don't," says Verle. He admits his wife used to buy his socks. "But she didn't do a very good job," Verle laughs. Since launching in November, with no advertising, he says the service has already broken even. "At first it was just our friends signing up. But then all these subscriptions started peering in and we had no idea who these people were or how they found out about it. But obviously it was something they wanted."

Verle has registered the domain name *monthlysocks.com*, in case he decides to try a sock subscription for women, and he has plans for monthly subscriptions for men's underwear and underwear as well.

Despite that, most women seem to love it. Verle says that 80 per cent of the people who have signed up for monthly socks have been women, buying the subscriptions as gifts for the men in their lives. "One woman bought a subscription for her brother and the gift note read, 'I've been sick of looking at your socks for the last 10 years,'" says Verle.

Verle himself now has a sock drawer with more than 50 pairs. Though he has helped other business ventures, including a bike company in Australia, "Socks is the most fun business of them all." ■



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'IF I WERE ALL THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT WOMEN I WOULDN'T HAVE SO MANY EX-GIRLFRIENDS' —NASCAR DRIVER CARL EDWARDS ON WHY HE'S A DUBIOUS CHOICE TO ADVISE HARLEQUIN ROMANCES

SAMUEL L. JACKSON
ANOTHER SHARK, BUT
THIS TIME, NO PLANE

It's starting in another snake movie. But at *Black Snake Moan*, the man from *Snakes on a Plane* is not wrangling reptiles. This time Samuel L. Jackson is stripping down around a willing, non-acted sympathetic man—a white trash hick played by a southern-fried Canadian. Kirk, Jackson portrays an old bluesman who rescues Rick's battered character, then chains him to a radiator (for her own good). Rick has come a long way from *The Addams Family*. Bettevey goes to stretch in *Black Snake Moan*, named after a 1937 Mabel Norman Jeffries game, while Jackson has most as reluctant Patsy Pierce. Justin Timberlake as Rick's ex-wife, but critics fear as *Black Snake Moan* as *Red* was without a star.

BRENDAN SHANAHAN
ALL HEART, NO TEETH

What a lovely three-days. On Feb. 15, the top score for the New York Rangers caught a puck in the mouth—getting out a tooth as he skated toward the bench. Sound that with a maverick hovering and a crimson stained towel around his neck, Brendan Shanahan, 35, looked like he had just set down a plate of pasta and gotten so into it he ate it over himself, however missed a shift. Two days later, against the Philadelphia Flyers, Shanahan, 125-lb. Shanahan accidentally collided with another one, 125-lb. Mike Knuble. Neither player was the other. Knuble's broken face will require surgery. Shanahan was out cold and stayed down for 30 minutes before he was wheeled off on a stretcher. After a night in hospital with a concussion, doctors told him to go home and rest, he went to the rink to watch his teammates well against Chicago. The Rangers won. Shanahan will be out at least a week, but not for a lack of heart.

DON LARSEN
CHAPLIN TO HIGGANS
GETS SENT HOME

While serving as a Christian US Army chaplain in Iraq, Don Larsen witnessed the ongoing carnage and experienced a religious epiphany. "So many innocent people are dying against the doctrine of God," the 50-year-old, 110 religious view switched to a faith he believed encourages people of all beliefs to co-exist. So, last July, he decided to become the army's first Wiccan chaplain. The army responded by sending him home from Iraq, and sending him from the English coast. With 4,000 Wiccans said to be in the army, differences are causing religious discrimination. But Larsen has accepted the decision against him with military respect. "It's not my place," he says, "to challenge the decisions of my superiors."

LESELI KALLI
"WHAT KIND OF
COUNTRY DOES THAT?"

She is not your strong Ontario college student. Leseli Kalli was only 16 on April 11, 1999, when she was her father got on a plane as their Calabarzon hometown of Bataan was hit by the short bay to Bataan. The plane was hijacked by guerrillas and the Kallis remained in jungle captivity for 375 days. Her diary of that time, just published as *Kali's Journal* (Simon & Schuster), reveals physical danger—Kalli was twice hit by guerrillas—and emotional devastation. Once there, her nightmare wasn't over yet. Angry that one kidnapper seemed more to her because she was a girl, she was told to account him. Kalli boldly went on national TV and in the Philippines. Dutch troops followed, and the Canadian Embassy approached Kalli, offering to take her in as a refugee under US protection. "What kind of country does that?" asks Kalli, now 16, with wonder in her voice. "Now I'm a Canadian citizen and I am so proud."

DIETER ZETSCHE
CHRYSLER'S BO. Z
PLANS TO AMPUTATE

The chairman of Chrysler AG might play an offbeat car race out in TV ads, but, if reports are true, Dieter Zetsche has been planning to cut the company's Chrysler division in half to save money. Dieter Zetsche will say of the rumors is that the company would find the "best solution" for Chrysler, which is required in 1998. Financial papers are seeking the books in advance of an auction organized by investment bank J.P. Morgan Chase. "Who would take a gamble on the struggling Detroit automaker, which just announced that it is eliminating 11,000 jobs, is up for debate. GM, with financial problems of its own, is more than interested, and a Hyundai spokesman dismissed speculation his company might make. While Chrysler works today, ending a decade of losses in Detroit over Zetsche's intentions is turning his post "Dr. Z" nickname into "Dr. Mad."

CARL EDWARDS
SQUEALING TIRES AND
RIPPED PODOCIES

NASCAR is going after the horns of veterans. The stock car racing association has teamed up with the league, the Canadian-owned publisher of romance novels, for a 16 book paperback series of love and lust in the NASCAR chase. The first and last novels will feature stories by Carl Edwards, a 23-year-old rookie who last week finished 2nd at last weekend's Daytona 500. *Speed Dating*, the first in the series, is the story of a reserved young woman who finds herself riding beside famous NASCAR driver Edwards's character in the novel avoids the trap of a love, unrequited often appearance on the floor set to his long legs. But not does not make life. At a press conference for the book, Edwards said "It was really that knowledge about women, I wouldn't have to worry about girlfriends."

LISA ROBERTSON
A MILE-DEEP MEMBER
COMES CLEAN

After daydreaming that she'd had sex in an aircraft washroom with actor Ralph Fiennes during a flight from Denver, Australia, to Mumbai, India, the *Queen Bees* columnist found up her weekend. Lisa Robertson is a 38-year-old former politician who used to pose as a drug addict during criminal investigations. In exchange for the whereabouts of a wife figure payed, she explained to the media how she ramped with the British actor during the flight. Her US source told her she'd spawned a series of headlines about a lack of professionalism—and an investigation by Queens. Following her admission, the editor announced on Sunday that she'd been fired. *Patience*, 44, is saying nothing; has published would only convey that it had been Robertson who initiated the affair. That Robertson's father, Graham, is taking, and with top local newspapers. He chided Queens personally over their criticism, changing they're "probably ugly as a ball of mud" and went just yellow.

DONALD TRUMP
HONG KONG'S BOW-TIE
BALANCING ACT

Pao Hong Kong's chief executive, the Chinese New Year's increase in the role of the city's democratic government with the expansion of his island and union. This week, a commission panel sympathetic to Beijing that controlled elections virtually assured him of a second term. And an opinion poll found 71 per cent of residents back him as leader. But with the public demanding a map to redevelopment of the city's remaining old neighborhoods, acceleration in the pace of democratic reforms and center as, Trump may find his popularity slowly tested in the next term of office.



THE BACK PAGES

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In matters of forgiveness, it never hurts to consult a man of faith. Which brings us almost immediately to Rabbi Shmley Betsch, host of TLC's *Sholem on the Menor*, master of *Recher Ser*, frequent commentator on pop culture, and former spiritual adviser to Michael Jackson, the primary subject of our pseudo-theological quest this "Can he be forgiven?" solo Rabbi Shmley, who parted ways with Jackson some seven years ago. "It all comes down to forgiveness for what? What is the offense?"

Here there are several options. There is obviously, first and foremost, the alleged pedophilia. That's hard to get past. But even if you believe him innocent of those crimes—and, unfairly, he's never been convicted in a court of law—the possibilities are endless.

The JACKSON FIVE in the 1970s. A 1984 star, Jackson became addicted to fame



one." Arreent report put Jackson in Las Vegas, planning a show there with Sharon Piller, the impresario behind the Pop Idol franchise and manager for David Byrne. Next month, Jackson will go to Japan for a "ten approximation" event at which anyone willing to pay more than US\$1,000 will be able to meet the king of pop (Judas was not included). And there are rumors, related publicly, of an upcoming guest spot on *American Idol*.

This is surely just the beginning. But even if we put it all there, not too much ground this time. Now nearly 40 years old, almost two decades removed from his greatest glory, having almost *definitely* made himself a symbol of epic proportions, this is probably Jackson's last, best shot at redemption.

It helps hard to remember how truly naive Jackson once was. From 1979 to 1988,

'CAN HE BE FORGIVEN?'

King of pop Michael Jackson is attempting the greatest—if most improbable—comeback in modern history BY AARON WHERRY

There's his obvious misanthropic complex. The vague dread of race, adulthood or anyone of personal responsibility. The compulsive mutilation of his face. Or the periodic dangle of children over hotel balconies. Or even if that year-long recording career.

Then there is the small matter of how much he threw away. "I think that one of the ones for which the public does not forgive Michael Jackson is the immense talent that he squandered. Most of us have this innate feeling that to be blessed by God with privilege, with talent, that one must cultivate it and utilize it to some special purpose," Rabbi Shmley says. "Very few Hollywood celebrities today do use their celebrity for a sacred purpose. I think the difference is, Michael is revered above them all."

That Michael Jackson was one of almost unprecedented talent is beyond debate. The question now is, will we ever settle him back? And, maybe even importantly, should we? With or without our explicit forgiveness, the greatest, if not impossible, comeback attempt in modern human history has already begun. In November, Jackson appeared at the World Music Awards in London and sang (poorly) a few lines from *My Love the World*. The following month he appeared at James Brown's funeral and, after spending a year



JACKSON (left) in the '70s, (above) in 1982

and a half shuttling between Bahrain and Ireland, took up residence again in the U.S.

There is talk of a new album, with the likes of will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas and R&B singer Aaliyah intent on the project. A new song, featuring rapper Pras, has leaked to the Internet. "He could go anywhere," will.i.am, the starman behind such modern classics as *My Adidas* and *Let's Get It Started*, could tell us. "It's either gonna be really big or nobody's gonna care. And no middle ground on this

Jackson released *Off the Wall*, *Thriller* and *Dust*, a trilogy of albums with Quincy Jones that, by one estimate, has gone on to sell more than 100 million records worldwide (Thriller is still the best-selling record of all time). During that stretch, Jackson had, in his 11 singles and won 13 Grammy awards. In between, he reinvented the music video, created the moonwalk, had at least one date with Brooke Shields, and acquired a majority share of the Beatles' back catalogue. It's difficult to find a companion or precedent for the success, fame and individual exorbitance Jackson achieved during this time, and he might have been, for a short while, the most celebrated entertainer ever.

Of course, this doomed him entirely. Surpassing such success was impossible, but by then, having been a star since he was old enough to stand upright, he was addicted to fame. So in lieu of success he started hanging out with zoo animals and child stars. In 1989 he released a series of videos for *Zoo* in which he raped a gorilla, the sensational media coverage he himself had invited. In addition to his long-legendary *leg mooning* sets (always a good idea), it presumed Jackson's life to be a carnival ride (probably a bad idea).

"In the 1980s, publicity-deficit syndrome," Rabbi Shmley explains, "where you begin to



HOT GREG GUTFELD (left) tried to prove how cutting-edge Fox News was by reporting Fox was allowing him to say the word "bushes"

The war against Jon Stewart

Afraid it's losing the youth vote to Comedy Central, Fox News attempts to get funny

BY JAMES D. WOODMAN • Why are the producers of Fox News so desperate to be funny? This past month, the conservative cable news channel added two shows that attempt to make fun of liberals, instead of just calling them traitors the way Fox News' regular anchors do. You don't see CNN trying to come up with a comedy show, but then Fox News' new praiseworthy ventures may be more about political movement than news—or, for that matter, comedy.

The 10 *Hour News Hour*, Fox's answer to *The Daily Show*, comes from Joel Garreau, one of the comedy challenged on *Jeopardy!* The first episode included a guest appearance by Garreau's friend Rush Limbaugh and comparisons between Barack Obama and Oprah. If that's not enough liberal baiting comedy for you, Fox News has also come up with a laugh-out-loud show called *Red Eye*, naming former *Madras* (of *Madras*) Greg Gutfeld, who once called liberals "persecuted minorities," tried to prove how cutting-edge Fox News was by informing house producers that Fox News was allowing him to say the word "bushes."

An article by Doug Giles, a columnist for the conservative site *Newsweek.com*, may provide a clue about why Fox News is trying to get humorous. Giles warned his ideological comrades that they would lose the audience wars unless they learned to make viewers laugh. Pointing out that demographic trends are making fewer consumers of Comedy Central, he wrote: "Blowing off the beach that's not laughing is conservative talk radio, watching *Bill O'Reilly*, or logging on to *Newsweek.com* is to sit in a crowd that will, in short order, be influencing our nation that you like the big dog out, conservative main and dad."

This isn't just about trying to fill up some

time on a liberal news channel. While the popularity of liberal-leaning humor among young people, and the liberal Democratic tilt of young voters in the 2006 and 2008 elections, conservatives worried that the future belongs to people who have been brought up to think that tax cuts and preventive war are for dummies. Fox News, a network formed to assist the conservative movement, feared they'd be forced with a choice: find the funny, or watch its movement slip into irrelevance.

Will the combination of humor and Republican party boosting ever take off? Gutfeld's *Red Eye*, written for the liberal humorist blog *Comedian's*, can't do that. Hence today's conservative show's "humorist, self-censoring" view that looks like it's not making jokes for jokes. "Ridiculing one of our common stereotypes often serves the purpose that humor would serve," he continues. "There has to be an element of surprise in humor—and conservatives hate surprise. It's just how they're wired."

Here enough, most of the jokes on *Red Eye* are Fox News' own. It's really jokes at all—they're Fox News' own. With a laugh track. A typical remark from the pilot episode is that Democratic National Committee chair man Howard Dean is morally fit and "getting the medical attention he has so desperately needed." We're expected to laugh not

because there was any meaning to the joking point, but just because we agree. Anyone who doesn't already agree will be flipping the channel to a real comedy show.

But contrary to what *McBite* says, there have always been successful right-leaning comedians and comedy writers; today's most prominent examples are Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the creators of *South Park*. Their episodes carry titles like "Die, Hippie, Die!" and make fun of environmentalists, hybrid cars, and liberal white Richard Dawkins. A typical episode of *South Park* produces more laughter at the expense of liberal sacred cows than anything Fox News can come up with.

The difference is that Parker and Stone are not party men, like liberal comics; they have a political philosophy that they incorporate into their work. Much of today's conservative movement, on the other hand, is based on partisan politics. Fox News or *Newsweek.com* are unofficial organs of the Republican Party. It's hard to be an effective comedian while being an advocate for a party, any party. At *South Park*'s best, particularly funny ones have topped being a political satire and become a Democratic candidate for the Senate.

But Fox News will keep trying to make young viewers watch *The 10 Hour News Hour*'s mental illness jokes. As Doug Giles wrote, if conservatives can't crack wise, they may lose "our ideological battle with the academics who whine about traditional American values."

That's comedy gold right there. ■



ACCORDING TO TV... ANNA NICOLE SMITH
"Another guy has stopped forward and says he's into the father of Anne Heche's mother—mean while. He's in the light of this poor woman's death. Now Anne Nicole Smith's bodyguard is the fifth person to die in his night as the father. With five people thinking he's the father, I don't think he was a very good bodyguard." —Jay Leno
"And you can never rule Kevin Federline out!" —Janet Marzulli



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THE AUTHOR of a book signing the border between the quick and the dead is permeable, and the past keeps erupting into the present.

Druids, iPods and a love triangle

Guy Gavriel Kay's newest novel takes him from fantasy realms to the here and now

BY BRIAN KETNER • For a writer who has been remarkably consistent in his themes on a successful 20-year career, Guy Gavriel Kay has a surprising number of books that minor fans might consider his defining work. For some it would be *The Pagan's Legacy* (1984/1986), the epic fantasy trilogy in the tradition of J.R.R. Tolkien that first made his reputation; for far more it would be *Tigana* (1989), the first in a series of alternate histories. But for others still, it may turn out to be his newest bestseller, *Nebel*, which Kay describes in an interview as somewhat easily "the most difficult and, maybe, the most accessible thing I've ever done."

Nebel is different. For the first time since Kay was a student of University of Toronto students hunkering over a fantasy novel in the opening pages of *Interview*, the Toronto author is writing about the here and now. Across playing his vice photographer father on a spring shoot in Provence, 18-year-old Myrta and Ned Marlene has little time before he's around architectural sites and worry about his physical fitness, away we go in the book on behalf of Doctor Whodunnit. The present-day setting doesn't come close to bleaching the mythic from the novel. In the colorful in *Arco* in Provence, Ned encounters a friend, a knight-riding man who tells him to forget what he's just seen while he still can. "You have blurred into a corner of a very old story."

The knight-riding man turns out to be one corner of a 1,600-year-old love triangle involving three powerful beings who keep re-emerging in Dover on one and over again, a mortal threat to anyone who gets in their way. Kay goes on to explain the how and why of this, the clear, almost deft weaving of the

novel is that the border between the quick and the dead—particularly in an ancient and fought over a corner of the world as Provence—is permeable, that the past constantly (if mistakenly) erupts into the present.

There's more than that right through all of Kay's novels. The trappings of *Nebel* may be a depresso—iPods and DVDs in the same story—but one way or another Kay has been exploring historical issues through fantasy since he started, with *Tigana*, a genre all his own. It wasn't, strictly speaking, classic alternate history, where a writer will tear a timeline when events could have turned out differently—say, a successful landing in England by the Spanish Armada—and explore how history might have unfolded. Instead Kay adopts a general cultural radius from a past era, but studies everything else—religion, economics—differently. In *Tigana*, it was a writing down from Renaissance Italy; here novels were based on medieval France, Moorish Spain, the Byzantine Empire and Viking era Britain. All were enormously popular, making Kay one of the best-selling Canadian novelists ever.

The new genre also added a moral dilemma for him, how to write of individuals caught in historical events without writing about a real person. "I don't want to pretend that I understood, even fictionally, the love affair

of Emperor Justinian and Theodora." Similarly, despite the assumption of historically minded critics, Kay is adamant that having a 15-year-old protagonist in *Nebel* had nothing to do with having two teen-boys of his own—"though they were very useful in telling me what kind of music might be on Ned's iPod" (Dad Zepher and Coldplay, as it turns out). Kay, 52, wanted a youthful lead character to express another historical concept, this one is how young many people in the past were when they assumed positions of responsibility. "I wanted to have a modern young reader who knew more than the adults and so accept the fact he couldn't rely on them, and have the adults accept it too."

For some of Kay's older fans, *Nebel* is probably less an issue than the utter necessity of French of this life. The author always assumed he would use some fantasy elements with this new kind of story, but would also extract more mainstream readers. He's arrived hard to make the book accessible to them. The novel's history of ancient Provence is mostly balanced with the novel's micro-history of Ned's family and, and Kay skillfully bridges the gap between the fantastic and realistic with ancient characters of the mythic figures in the love triangle. Chatter on fantasy websites about Kay was correct to expect disappointment in some readers; *Nebel*'s sales show he was just as right in thinking these would be many new ones. ■

STOP THE PRESSES... CRISTIANO RONALDO

The 22-year-old Portuguese soccer superstar has many talents, but being supernatural is probably not one of them. "Yesterday we interviewed the Manchester United assistant manager, Christian Gattuso, saying of Cristiano Ronaldo: 'The kid has a divine talent. I have never seen a player with this level of ability.' The quote should have read: 'The kid has a divine talent. I have never seen a player with this level of ability.' —*Shane's Place, Feb. 7*





Hip hip hooray for anglophones

There's a reason Andrew Roberts' muscular new book resonates with President Bush

[illegible]

You don't have to read far into Robert's volume to appreciate why it resonates with this particular commander-in-chief. On page six, we find another head of government of a global superpower, the 1st Marquess of Salisbury Speaking at the dawn of the 20th

"England is, I believe, the only country in which, during a great war, citizens can write and speak as if they belonged to the country."

Indeed. And, as Roberts adds, "In fact, the phenomenon was to recur throughout the English-speaking world over the course

decides, and in some engagements—such as at Saïgon and in Vietnam—opposition from a voracious domestic vanity was to doom their enterprises far more than foreign opponents.¹²

It's certainly right about Williams, but the cynicism arches upward when it comes to *him*. It was surely neither ebullient optimism nor Bayesian cynicism that drove all of his extraordinary exploits and fierce American hostility to British action. What sagged his 5ft-9in might ought, I am led to infer, to be the creation of the faculty "wubbin'." Middle East has played the world today. But that's one of the pleasures of Roberts' book: muscular polemical prose that cheerfully uses an argument about something other than stress every page. Yes, of course, it's equal to Chomsky's *History of the English Speaking Peoples*, whose four volumes (completed in the year 2000) Roberts finds, reasonably enough, "it's a shame to read the essay without an account of the Angloboer war."

Which raises the question of what he means by "the English speaking peoples." I have both the London and New York editions of this book. The British pocket book has flags: the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes, the Southern Cross and the Maple Leaf (well, it should have been the Red Ensign). By contrast, the American pocket edition has only



FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... PIERRE AND RIGEL
 In Robert Wright's *Three Alibis* in Havana (HarperCollins), Pierre Trudeau's visit to Cuba in 1976 emerges as a flashpoint in Cold War politics, a decisive moment in Trudeau's marriage (after his wife Margot declared Fidel Castro "the sexiest man alive," Trudeau was told to "fix" "I'm glad you're still with me, I thought you would ask for asylum"), and the start of a lifelong friendship. In 2000, Castro was one of only two heads of state to attend Trudeau's funeral.

tion of the sibling with a scene of postwar
population in Times Square, and the only link
to be seen is that of Old Glory. Roberts' New
York publishers would appear not to be en-
tirely on board with his view of the great im-
phone family and, at least for promotional
purposes, prefer traditional variants of Amer-
ican escapism. The author, on the other
hand, subscribes to something closer to the
Chaucerian idea of a Briton's family with
America as the prodigal son, but a son never
chaste and the creator of wit.

"Just now we do not today differentiate between the Roman Republic and the imperial period of the Julio-Claudians when we think of the Roman Empire, so in the future no one will bother to make a distinction between the British Empire led and the American Republic-led periods of English-speaking dominance between the late-eighteenth and the twenty-first centuries. It will be recognized that in the majestic story of Europe they had so much in common – and enough that separated it from everyone else – that they ought to be regarded as a single historical entity, with only scholars and pedants still trying to describe otherwise."

If you step back, this seems obvious. Of the three great global conflicts of the 20th century—the First, Second and Cold wars—who called it right every time? Germany and out of three, Italy: two out of three. France: well, let's not even go there. For a perfect example, there are only those nations on the fringes

SOVIET COMMUNISM was just one of the assaults on liberal democracies had to fear.

of Robert's London edition. There is a distinction between the "English speaking peoples" and the rest of "the West," and key moments in human history that distinction has proved critical. Europe has given us plenty of nice paintings and agreeable symphonies, French wine and Italian acrobats, and whatever, but, for all our *fin de siècle* and *modernity*, you can't help noticing that when it comes to the notion of a political West—a sustained commitment to individual liberty—the historical record looks a lot more unimpressive and indeed (given that three of the four authors don't cover where the state itself stands) unimpaired. Robert provides a solid foundation.

"Although they are ancient states, many of the constitutions of European countries are very young indeed, far younger than those of Britain's constitutional monarchy (1688-9), America's democracy (1776), Canada's imperialistic government (1840) or even Australia's Federation (1900). By contrast, the French Constitution establishing the Fifth Republic was only promulgated in 1958, Germany's Basic Law was passed in 1949... Italy's was adopted in 1947... and Portugal's became law in 1976."¹

Or, as I like to say, the U.S. constitution is not only older than the French, German, Italian and Spanish constitutions, it's older than all of them put together. The entire political class of Portugal, Spain and Greece spends their childhoods living under dictatorship. So did Jacques Chirac and Angela Merkel. We forget how rare in this world a sustained peaceful constitutional evolution is; and, to be

Roberts, "The Romans invented the concept of Law, the Greeks the free-man or the democracy, the Dutch modern capitalism. But it is the English world that has managed to make these blessings seemingly permanent features of the landscape."

As Robert says it, the story of the 1960s century is one of unprincipled democracies defending the places against what he calls four assaults: "The First Assault: Russian Militarism 1946-57," "The Second Assault: Soviet Aggression 1953-56," "The Third Assault: Soviet Communism 1949-60," and "The Fourth Assault: Marxist Terrorism and the De Facto Alliance," in various other periods of complacency ("The Wanted Breathing Space: 1960-31 September 2007") and losses (Rifts: "The Long, Eternal, Dreading Tides: The 1970s"), but in the end the good guys always step in to save the world.

Of course, to point out such things is not terribly laughable, which may explain why this book has had some snippy reviews in the mother country. "Everyone's Perfidious, for Albion And America," Andrew Roberts has written a most unEnglish book, says Tim Cardant (*The Observer*). The proponents of such a theme rattle sounding like the old Flamingos and Sweeties song:

The English, the English, the English we
 beg
 I wouldn't give rappence for all of the

But Roberts is sharper than that—he understands the seductive temptations of what he calls “permanent golf” and “the politics of the pre-crash cringe.” Canada is an

intriguing example: we are a solid presence in the first half of this story, yet all but entirely absent from the second. The only one of our politicians post-Trotsky who rises a mention is a passing reference to Paul Marzari's reputation of missile defense, and thereby mentions of Trotsky is a aside aside about his youthful enthusiasm for Maoist China. We are a wretched 67 nation of 10 million people by



**MACLEAN'S
BESTSELLERS**

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COPIES OF BEST-SELLING FICTION		
	Fiction	LAST WEEK PUBLISHED
1	YANKEE by Guy Gavriel Kay	3 (1)
2	HOUSE OF HEAVENING by Martin Amis	8 (1)
3	THE BOOK OF NERODES by Lawrence Sanders	11 (1)
4	MOTHER AND SONS by Colin Firth	7 (1)
5	WOLF OF THE PLAINS by Simon Armitage	9 (1)
6	THE CUSTODIAN OF PARADISE by Stephen Jordan	4 (22)
7	BANG CRUNCH by Ian Smith	6 (1)
8	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE by Mary Larkin	4 (1)
9	FINANCIAL BEING by Thomas Mann	10 (1)
10	SACRED GAMES by Valere Chom	11 (1)

Non-fiction

1	THE DELUSION by Richard Dawkins	1.08
2	THE SECRET by Rhonda Byrne	3.00
3	ARMY ALICE by Calvin Feltan	4.00
4	AMONG PRECETS by Chris Hopkins	0.00
5	VICTORY AT WIMPY by Ted Morris	0.00
6	KING HAMMER, TEAR by Catline Clay	9.00
7	WIKINGHEDS by Gene Tapesco and Anthony D. Stribling	3.00
8	INDEPENDENT OF AETHER by Michael O'Neil	0.00
9	TELETYPE PLACE NOT ARRANGED by Jimmy Carter	7.00
10	SPYTHREED by William Shakespeare	8.00

chose under the cover of Transhuman nationalism to embrace global irrelevance. One constant across the ocean marked the dawn of the 21st era by selling off the Royal New Zealand Air Force. The whole lot, gone. Britain itself seems unable to come up with a fatalistic three-legged slalom manoeuvre with Europe and its identifying cities that may yet prove to be in the Commercial pathologies it has agreed to avoid in the 20th century.

"Ah, the Anglophones," Australia's *National Review* Downer, my favorite foreign anarchist said to me last year, when the subject of Canadian troops in Afghanistan came up. "There are really only five of us." But, in their present political sensitivities, Canada is semi-French, Britain is semi-European, and New Zealand is semi-barbaric. The next volume of this series will be an interesting read. ■

Starting and ending with dessert

A new trend has restaurants specializing in what used to be the epilogue to dinner

can serve as an opportunity for customers to sample a taste of the Night life. For instance, Boudha has a bar/lounge in the ground-floor corridor just west of the after-noon lounge at Marhabach, aka Damaal restaurant. Here, delicate desserts include an apple *pasta* mosaic with dried golds, roasted gals, and green apple sorbet, with which the sommelier recommends a Coteaux du Layon Boudha 2001. "We find a lot of neighbourhood implies like to come in for dessert, especially after the theatre, says Boudha.



A bottle of wine made for the Nazis during the Second World War has been discovered in the back of a French garage, and is being auctioned in England. Featuring a picture of Adolf Hitler looking sporty in a suit, the *Schwarzer Tafelwein* is extremely rare. The wine, bottled in 1943 to mark Hitler's 54th birthday, is still sealed but is not considered drinkable - it is expected to fetch \$150.



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Odds of
a Jessica
Simpson
Oscar win:
36-24-36-1



Think you're ready for the
79th Academy Awards?
You do!

Well, you're not ready.
Honestly, how could you
even think you're ready?
Now listen me

FISCHER: Listen, I'm not your friend or anything, but I think you've got to sit down and ask yourself some really hard questions about what kind of person you are because right now you're the kind of person who says they're ready for the 70th Academy Awards, who goes and makes that claim, even when it's apparent to absolutely everybody that you are not ready. Not in the least.

Frankly, I'm not even sure you're prepared for the 75th Academy Awards. That's how bad it is.

For instance, have you even taken that Oscar quiz yet? The quiz you haven't seen before now and had no way of knowing existed until this very moment?

Just as I thought. Get out of my sight.

1. According to the publicity department of the Academy Awards, this year's Oscar telecast will be viewed by

- a) two billion people
- b) six billion people
- c) every single living creature and thing on earth, plus comets who have cable

2. The theme of this year's ceremony is:

- a) Magic and Wonder: A Second Century of Cinema!
- b) Celebrating 40 Years of Grierson Toplessness!
- c) Maybe Next Year We'll Nominat Someone You've Heard Of!

3. Of the films nominated for Best Picture, which title promises the most anticipated DVD extra? a) *Hotel*—for tragic scenes in which Bob Seger is mortally wounded by a football to the groin.

a) The Deputy—for behind-the-scenes fun
more in which washed-up De Niro drops by
and Scorsese has to pretend he's not making
a movie because, "Come on Bob, there's no
way I'd make a movie without you buddy,
buddy, huh. DeCaprio? He's has to cut my lawn
Duroon, see. They've started a business
together Bay Landscaping." [Audience silence;
Scorsese nods mck. | What?]
c) The Queens—for dramatic
crafting in which (for May
only) you back her up with
beats by directing to Japer
Foah

4. Two years ago, the dangerous and unpredictable Clint Eastwood hosted the Oscars. Last year, it was the cynical and snarky Joe Stewart. This year the angry and raucous Mike DeGuerres, judging from his trend the host of next year's *Academy Awards* will be—
a) Larry King.
b) Tickle Me Elmo.
c) Tickle Me Larry King.

5. Judging from her film performance to date, what are the odds that Jessica Simpson will eventually win an Oscar?

- 500:1
- 7,000:1
- 35:35-36:1

6 Earlier this month, the Grammy incorporated a reality show element into its ceremony. Which reality-themed segment would prove most popular at the Grams?

7 Before the ceremony, many people like watch the Red Carpet arrivals in which Hollywood stars dressed in designer clothes.

a) quickly asked their eyes and spent an effort to speak past Joan Rivers
b) introduce us to their two closest friends—the left one and the right one
c) naively come to the realization that it's too late to go back home and put on a dress that's not made entirely from banana cord

5. The most common question on this year's Red Carpet will be:
a) "Who are you wearing?"

5. The Academy is expected to "right a wrong" by finally giving an Oscar to Martin Scorsese. It could right another wrong by taking one away from Kevin Costner.



c) I'm not sure, but it will probably involve the words "Roberto Benigni" and "backfired with a scream."

a) an agent is thanked
b) the host increases the irretrievable length of the show
c) Warren Beatty experiences a sour pill

ON THE WEB: For Scott Feschak's take on the news of the day visit his website www.musicians.org/ScottFeschak



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HAGGIS'S HEROES

The day after Paul Haggis (*Crash*), *Millions* (Julie Dreyfus) finds out she'll have another Oscar to add to her medals—this time for *Crash* from two Jews—a brilliant new TV drama, *The Mark Twain*, makes its debut (Feb. 26 at 10 p.m. on CBS). For Haggis, the series is an homage to “a story that became a very tough” on Feb. 4, 1886, when Haggis’s hometown of London, Ont., saw its life. Donnelly family was murdered by crashing neighbors. With that tale as inspiration, Haggis and co-creator Bobby Morrisey, who was raised in New York City’s violent Midtown, have created a pitch-perfect original crime drama set in a gritty, midsize New York neighborhood controlled by the Irish mob. The story focuses on the four teenagers (Donnelly brothers), whose fierce loyalty to each other is tested as small crimes snowball and they have to tear their family apart. Episode one begins with the introduction of the brothers—Sean, Tommy, boisterous jockey, unlikely Kevlar and playboy Sean (with Haggis’s madcap *millions* because finger dialogue, it’s so packed with news, terms and fixed ends that recording the show and watching it is a second—when third—scene is crucial). The original voice (Haggis) of the city’s Irish and Italian communities are at the heart of the series, and Haggis explains when *Crash* (Haggis) Kevin (Haggis) Haggis looks, “*Crash* (Haggis),” “knowing that he’s the nephew of an Italian mob boss. Can the show maintain the pilot’s high standards? Having already decided to consider *Crash*, it’s confirmed. So are we. *Crash* (Haggis)



www.aanet.com—proceeds go to help install solar panels on homes in several Toronto neighbourhoods. *Jill Varney*

It wasn't that night *CLEAR*, however, never got a U.S. release—as producers couldn't afford American rights on some of the sound-track music, which features the Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd. Now on a double-disc DVD+VCR package, the director's Coppola-like antihero *CLEAR* stands up as a psychedelic coming-of-age epic as only Quahog could create. **Brian D. Johnson**



MUSIC **KROEKER CAN ROCK**
Packed with radio-friendly hooks, Joel Kroeker's new album, *Closer to the Flame*, is pretty straight-ahead pop. And while the Winnipeg horn player's somewhat

at his CaribRock fest on many songs, he nicely slows the pace on others—including *Deja Vu*, a duet with francophone pop star Norelle Bédaride. John Arden

54

ROYAL TREATMENT

It's no wonder the Japanese government protest with Australia over an unauthorised biography, *Princess Masako: Princess of the Chrysanthemum Throne* (Penguin). Australian journalist Ben Hall writes how being isolated behind palace walls and being a non-communicative person so there's a son transformed Masako into a vibrant diplomat into a clinically depressed crown princess. Patricia Tisdale



Abstract

ARE THEY REAL?

If not for their unusual scale, you would swear that Ron Mueck's fiberglass and silicon sculptures were living, breathing human beings. The degree of realism is deliciously eerie. Reproductions of the Australian-born father puppet master's work compare intimately to the real thing, so get to the National Gallery between March 2 and May 6 for Mueck's first solo show in Canada. *Mitchell Rosenzweig*

**EXTRA HARRY**

Harry Connick, Jr. has two CDs out, both with New Orleans themes and with profits going to house-building projects in his shantytown hometown. Oh, *My NOLA* is the standard good time; Harry singing in front of his big band. But *Chanson du Vieux Carré* is even more of a treat, because it's Harry now singing in front of his big band. Without the vocals, Connick's skills as pianist, arranger and employer of brilliant colleagues are obvious; *entire album sold*. *Roll 306*

KATHERINE ROSE MERKEL

1992-2007

She was a normally cautious teen who tried and tried to find a way to get home safely after a party

Katherine Rose Merkel was born on April 23, 1992, in Aurora, Ill. She was the youngest of five children, and the only daughter of John Merkel, a welder at the Oswego Catepillar Engine Company, and Brenda, a stay-at-home mom. She always went by "Katie," although Brenda started calling her "Katie" after her daughter entered high school last September.

"Katie grew up in a humble but lovely home in Oswego, in western Illinois. When she was small, Oswego was a quiet country town. Over the past decade, however, the suburbs of Chicago, 60 km to the east, crept into the area, and Oswego was swallowed up by the sprawling metro area, known locally as Chicagoland. Today, it is a suburban municipality of 23,000, with two high schools and several malls.

During five kids on John's salary was tight, but Katie never went without the latest cellphone or MySpace hoodie. After four boys, John and Brenda were thrilled to finally have a girl. From the beginning, says Katie's next Doyle Merkel, Katherine was pampered and protected by her dad and her brothers Jason, Rob, Danny and Johnnie. The Merkel kids are a look-alike brood of blue-eyed blonds—Katie's brothers even shared the same buzz cut. The family is widely known because the Merkel boys wrestled and played football and baseball, Oswego's most popular sports. "Growing up, there was no baller or tag games for Katie," says Jason, "just wrestling matches and football games."

Katie was introduced to sports early ("Katie was born in April," says Jason, "and by July, dad had her out on the football practice field in a popover assigned to his chest") This was partly because of a cousin. Shortly after Katie's birth, Brenda developed serious back problems that often left her unable to care for her youngest. Until Katie was 8, John coached the Oswego Panthers, the local youth football team. "If however the Panthers played, whether it was John, Lesnor or New Lenox, Katie would tag along, sometimes in an infant seat. In those days, John called her 'Stinky.' By the end of her brothers' games, Katie always needed a fresh diaper because John had been too busy bawling out commands to change it.

Katie was her big brother's 'innest fan.' She was a slight blond and a bit of a gipsy, who slipped along the sidewalks as she got older

or tripped up and down the bleachers wearing orange and blue Panthers warm up gear. "Cheerleading was her thing," according to Doyle.

Katie started on the Oswego North Cheerleading Squad when she was 7, and continued until Grade 8, when she began managing the Daughlar Junior High School wrestling team. Jason says she knew more about wrestling than most boys, and wanted to know that rule book year, once she felt a little more acclimated at Oswego High School.

Managing a team was Katie's style as she grew up. "She wasn't the typical cheerleader," Jason says. "She wasn't all giggly and bubbly." Katie was a solid student and wrestler's per. Often, she accepted rides from one of them, instead of going into the nearest car like most teens. "She wasn't one to take chances," says Doyle. "She always wore her seat belt." Besides, her brother would police her on her if she got out of line.

On Sat. Feb. 16, Katie attended a house party in neighboring Montgomery. Around 1:30 a.m., when her ride fell through, Katie called two older friends, both of whom already had their driver's licenses. Matt Albright, a 17-year-old senior at Oswego High School, was hanging out at home with his friend Jeremy Michel. They were watching TV, and not in the mood

to go out. Katie called both of them, but neither was willing to pick her up. (Jeremy will later state that he had always told his friends to call him if they needed a ride. He never recommended and called Katie back on her cellphone about 3 a.m. She didn't answer.)

Katie walked to the nearby house of her best friend, Theresa Garcia, to ask if she could spend the night. Theresa's family was in a bad mood, not expecting and the house was in disarray. Theresa's mom had explicitly told her, no sleepovers.

Katie didn't know how to get home. Her parents were unaware of her predicament; they thought she was bonafide. Katie got into a 2001 Infiniti driven by Sandra Vasquez, a 25-year-old she barely knew. She drove from the party, 40 Illinois Hwy. 31, the car crashed into a utility pole. At 34, Katie was the youngest of the Oswego High team who died at the scene. Vasquez was charged with various DUI offences and reckless homicide by the Mendall County state's attorney's office.

BY SANCY MACDONALD

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